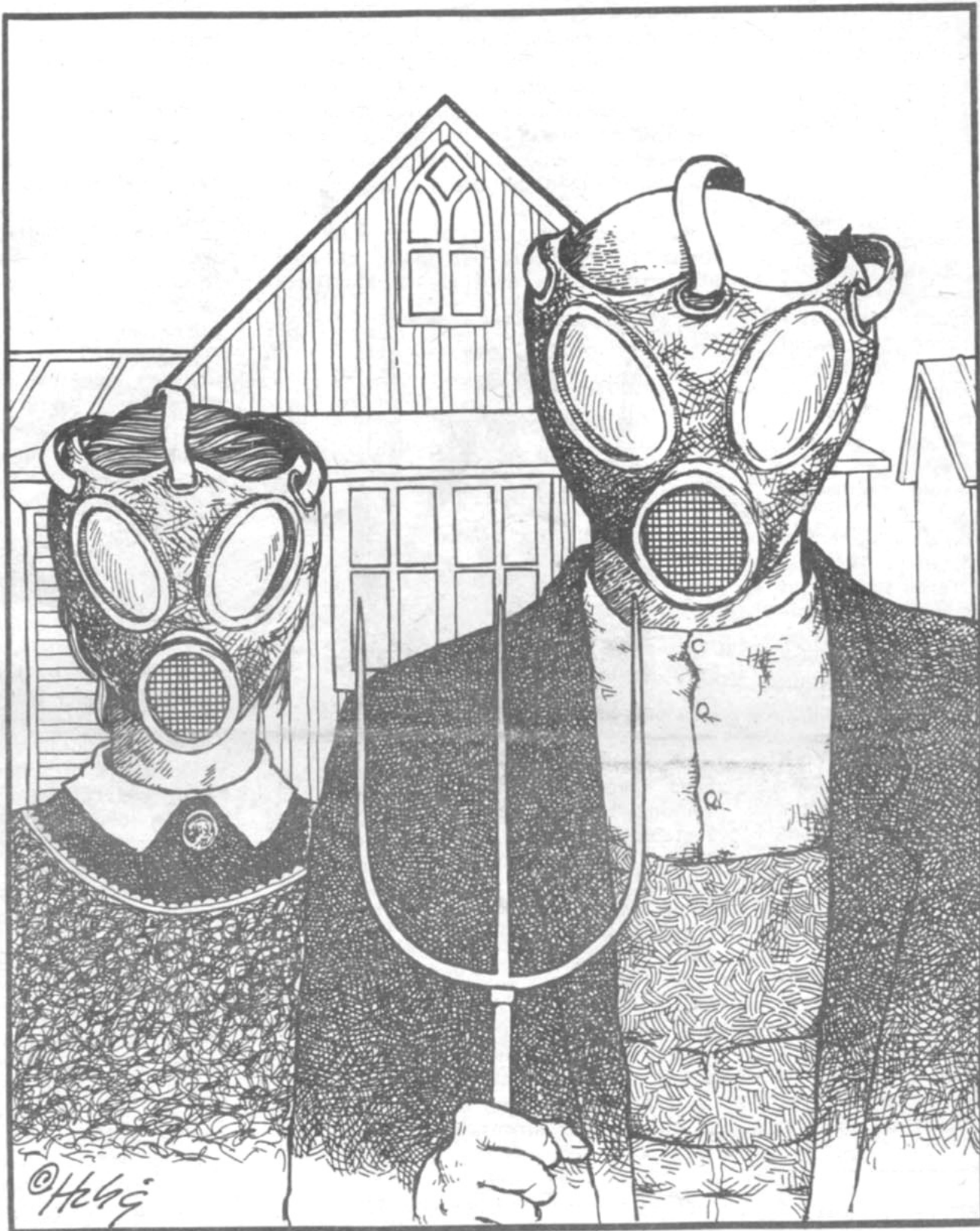


The DC Gazette

VOL XIII Nr. 1

JANUARY 1982

Whole Number 216



CAMPAIGN TOUT SHEET

Expanded Neighborhood News

**GOING BACK
TO THE DEMOCRATS**

The Weather Report
(Begins Page 9)

At last month's opening of the Cleveland Park subway station, a minister referred to the almighty as being the "source of all resources" and a rabbi used the word "finalize" in a prayer. No one on the reviewing stand even coughed.

In the past year, 1700 new rental units have been made available for occupancy in the District. On the other hand, 4000 units have been demolished, discontinued or converted to condominiums, cooperatives or nonhousing use.

The recently-axed speculation tax (killed with help from mayoral candidates John Ray and Betty Ann Kane) may have been better than a lot of people realized. City finance director Carolyn Smith thinks so. Smith points out that the small amount of tax collected actually "suggests that the speculation tax may indeed have discouraged certain targeted types of speculative sales. It discouraged the rapid resale of shells and other unrehabilitated houses at inflated prices, since such transactions were subject to a steep tax. It helped bring previously unrehabilitated properties up to code, since taxpayers could avoid the tax by warranting the property."

While only \$11,000 has been collected on the tax since 1978, more than \$1 million in uncollected taxes have been referred to the city's delinquent collection division and the finance office has filed liens during the past year totalling about a quarter of a million dollars.

Those buses we leased to New York City are coming home. New York borrowed the 160 Washington buses after some six hundred newer Flxible buses were recalled because of structural defects.

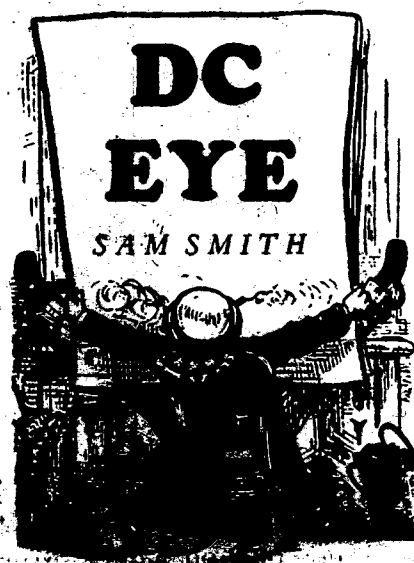
The saga of the buses, reported in the New York Times but ignored by the Post, is a rare tale of mutual admiration between two often contentious cities. The New Yorkers liked the buses, kept them in good shape and didn't even vandalize them as much as they do their own buses. And says New York Transit Authority president John Simpson of the Metro people: "Our hats are off to

them. They helped us survive some tough times."

Cb Hall dropped into the Gazette office last month and didn't look a bit tired, which is pretty good considering he was winding up a walk of 3900 miles. Hall and a group of peace activists marched from Seattle, Washington -- and many of the group were continuing (they hoped) to Moscow to protest nuclear weapons. The walkers were accompanied by a couple of fifties-era vehicles: a pickup truck and a bus.

The walkers met with a generally good reception except in a few places such as Bellview, Washington, home of the SAC command. In Chicago, Hall was arrested on charges of passing out leaflets too close to the Great Lakes Naval Training Command.

Hall is dropping out of the walk to return to Vermont, but many of the others intend to continue to Moscow.



Says Trenā Cleland, "Most of us are walking because we don't feel comfortable living in a world under the threat of nuclear weapons. We are walking and talking to people on a grass roots level about our concerns and our frustration that we can't get through to politicians."

The Washington Animal Rescue League tells us that if you walk your dog during snowtime, you should use a damp towel to wipe off its feet and abdomen, as rock salt and other chemicals used on sidewalks and streets can cause irritation.

That was a marvelous vignette of the academic life in Lloyd Grove's Post story on Eugenie Clark, the University of Maryland shark expert who has ridden on shark backs, written articles for National Geographic and is working on a television documentary.

Grove quoted Ernest Lachner, ichthyologist at the Smithsonian Institution as saying, "She certainly knows how to capitalize and attract attention. If the National Geographic wants to blow her up and the like, that's fine. But I don't remember when she gave her last comprehensive scientific paper. She's never been on the editorial board of the ichthyological journal. She's never been an officer of or served on any prominent committee. This is the hard-core work, the dirty work that take up my time and everybody else's time so that scientists can survive and do research. She should do some of these things rather than being just a popularizer."

Clark produced for Groves four re-

cent papers she has written including one on "Red Sea Fishes of the Family Tripterygiidae with Descriptions of Eight New Species."

And University of Texas professor Clark Hubbs, chairman of ichthyology and editor of Copeia, the Foreign Affairs of the ichthyological world, rose to her defense: "It's the old jealousy circumstance. I've heard some of my colleagues suggest that because Genie's name gets rattled around so hard, she should be kicked out of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. I say b--- to that. Most scientists are prima donnas and Genie's no exception. But I think she's a nice prima donna."

It all makes the DC school board seem rather tame.

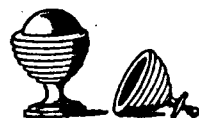
It should be noted for the record that yet another of Metro's annual Airlie House conferences ended last month with no long-range plan to cure Metro's increasingly difficult fiscal problems. The group of area officials did hear that Metro's operating budget for the next fiscal year would rise 16 percent and the subsidy and debt service bills sent to Metro's jurisdictional partners would go up 35%.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration's commitment to Metro appears to be limited to completion of a 75-mile system (26 miles short of Metro's goal); according to persons who have recently discussed the matter with federal transportation officials.

That sleeper bill in the council which would permit air rights to be transferred from historic landmarks to other sites around the city has come in for considerable criticism from local preservation and neighborhood groups. The theory behind the bill is that if you save, say, a three story building in a area zoned for nine story structures, you can transfer that extra six stories to a developer to use somewhere else for his new highrise. Creating a marketable commodity out of thin air demonstrates the creative lengths to which planners and developers will go, but it doesn't make much sense to the rest of us.

Those interested in the political sociology of DC will want to get a hold of a new book by Charles Harris and Alvin Thornton: "Perspectives of Political Power in the District of Columbia." Based on extensive interviews and questionnaires with elected officials and over a hundred members of the political elite, the book examines such questions as the performance of the city council, Congress and the political leadership. The book also attempts to define the most powerful interest groups and discusses how race affects local politics. You can get a copy for \$7.95 (plus \$1 postage and handling) from the National Institute of Public Management, 1625 Eye St. NW (#1002), DC 20006.

For inscutable reasons, the Moon Palace Restaurant in Cleveland Park offers a drink called the Ward Eight. It's a mixture of blended whiskey, lemon juice and grenadine.



THE DC GAZETTE

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The Gazette welcomes articles, letters and photos as well as short stories and poems, but cannot, unfortunately, afford to pay for them. All submissions should be made with a stamped self-addressed envelope if you wish material returned.

Deadline for editorial and advertising matter: 15th of the month.

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CONTRIBUTING CORRESPONDENTS: Chuck Stone, Eric Green, Bob Alperin, Josiah X. Swampoodle, Jon Rowe

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DC GAZETTE
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CAMPAIGN TOUT SHEET

The candidate

MARION BARRY

Stronger than generally recognized; personal approach to campaign could make or break him

JOHN RAY

Good campaign organization, money and image could make him strong contender against Barry. Watch for crime to be a big issue for him

BETTY ANN KANE

Kane has overcome racial barriers in the past, but some observers think she may have overreached this time

JOHN WILSON

At the ward level, John Wilson has been a clever and effective politician but. . . .

ARRINGTON DIXON

An effective politician who has to decide what to run for.

PATRICIA HARRIS

Still taking soundings

STERLING TUCKER

Money problems slowing comeback

VINCE REED

Could be bottom line in campaign. Would have to decide whether to run as independent or Republican.

CHARLENE JARVIS

Chances depend on winning wild-card slot.

Strengths

Improved city's fiscal situation; reduced size of city payroll; increased locally-funded housing; improved management of government; increased appointments of black, gays and women.

Little negative in his record; pleasant personality; signs of good campaign set-up; popular name in Ward III

One of the best city councilmembers and, before that, school board member. Long list of achievement; reputation as reliable, honest and extremely hard working. Could collect a lot of IOUs from past favors.

Holds important city council committee chairmanship; extremely perceptive about city trends; remains popular in one of the city's few polyglot wards; strong support from financial community and lawyers in past.

Current position gives him a strong jumping off point; seems to have made fewer enemies than, say, Barry. Can work various constituencies -- talking about his boyhood in Anacostia, looking clean-cut in Ward Four and west of the park. One of the few running who can be counted on gaining votes by personal campaign style.

Seen by some as the great black middle-class hope. Her federal cabinet positions have given her reputation for management ability. Would pull strongly in Ward Four and Three.

Image as manager; service as chair of city council; exudes air of responsibility.

One of the most popular local figures this town has seen; very effective in personal appearances; term as schools chief generally met with approval.

Hard-working, non-controversial member of council. Liked in her high voting Ward Four.

Weaknesses

His development policies; his assaults on the school budget; and his mouth. The Pride case remains a political cloud over his head. And planning director Jim Gibson is an albatross.

Hasn't done much on city council; not an impressive speaker

Race almost certainly will be either an open or closet issue. Not an inspiring speaker and tends to be a bit dull. Her vote against speculation tax may hurt.

Tends to be erratic; other pols and press discount him; will have to overcome image of being a bit flakey.

Has reputation of being not too bright. Various maneuvers have annoyed other council members. Been a better chair than Tucker, but it's hard to point to

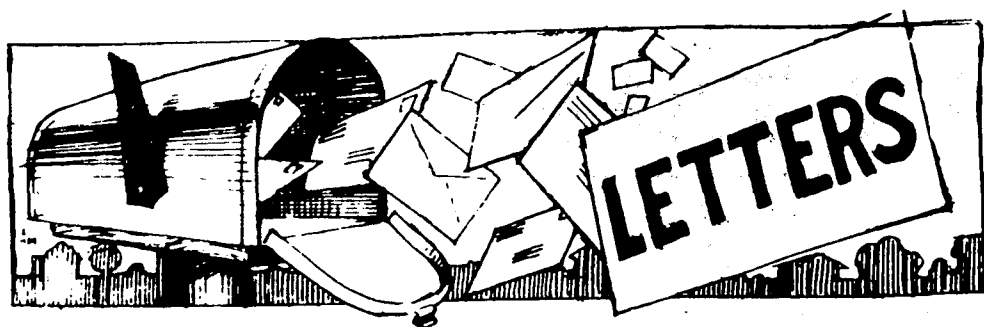
Hasn't paid her dues in DC; little local record to go on; also a lack of a federal record that can be easily articulated. Some consider her arrogant and difficult to deal with.

Past ethical problems certain to arise; campaign worker dissatisfaction from last campaign still rankles some; a bit of image of a has-been.

Joining up with the Reaganistas would certainly be a campaign problem.

Little known in much of the city; seen as possible stalking horse for Pat Harris.

At the opening bell of the mayoral campaign, Marion Barry, despite his many flaws, remains a tough incumbent to beat. His performance, by big city mayoral standards, has been at least average and he's got many months to put some gloss on it. At this point, his most appealing and qualified opponent is Betty Ann Kane but she's a two-against, i.e. a woman and a white. Besides she's got John Ray raiding her Ward III constituency. A case can be made for Dixon, Wilson, Ray and Jarvis but they're going to have to work awfully hard at it to prove they'd do a better job than Barry. Harris would have a tough time in the rough and tumble of a campaign and even the developers seem to be ready to forget Tucker In the city council chair race, Dave Clarke is gearing up to run and some of the mayoral candidates may use that race as a stepping stone to something lower, switching to the council chair contest. . . . Hilda Mason is running hard for re-election for an at-large seat. She is, of course, a must for re-election.



Thorns. . .

Thorns to the DC Gazette for its item "Thorns to Ben Franklin of the Times for writing a column length story headlined 'Washington Seeks True Home Rule' -- somehow managing to mention statehood only in the last paragraph."

1. Ben Franklin is a good reporter and probably never deserves any thorns. Besides, editors have been known to change and mangle a writer's copy on papers other than the DC Gazette.

2. At the risk of uttering a DC Gazette heresy, is it so important to mention statehood high in the story? Is statehood plausible or even desirable? Wouldn't we be better off if Maryland would take us even though the state is sometimes a bit politically corrupt at the top?

3. In what city is Ben Franklin's Times published? Is it the Times of London, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, the Louisville Times, the Kansas City Times or the St. Petersburg Times? The eastern provincialism of the editor is somewhat shocking.

Your readers trust that this is a momentary slip in your dedicated delivery of a worthwhile newspaper to us each month.

BRYCE NELSON
Washington DC

If you're writing about 'true home rule' it's hard to relegate statehood to the last paragraph since the other stuff isn't true home rule. Further, statehood is the status that a majority of DC residents have endorsed by initiative and thus deserves more than a journalistic nod.

Your point about Maryland has merit, but unfortunately Maryland doesn't feel the same way. I've always thought that making DC a part of Maryland would improve democracy in two jurisdictions.

I apologize for the slur against the many fine Times's of the world. I just assumed readers would know I was speaking of the New York variety; after all, the Los Angeles Times, for example, would never do such a bad job when and if it gets around to covering DC's status problem -- Ed.

improvements so people could go ahead and fix-up without fear of higher taxes. Another benefit would be to light a fire under the owners of vacant land or tumble-down buildings to build, fix-up, or sell.

It's a new idea for D.C. but Pittsburgh is moving toward site value taxation with impressive results. John Wilson and Sam Smith should call up the Pittsburgh city council for some clear-headed thinking.

ALAN MAGAN
Vice-President
League for Urban Land Conservation
* * *

To the Editor:

The November Gazette refers to site value taxation as "this odd and potentially dangerous idea." In an era of ethical relativity and economic confusion, SVT is "odd" in the same way that paying one's bills, the Golden Rule, or living within one's means are "odd." SVT would indeed be "potentially dangerous" to certain interests that prey on urban poverty and misery. Yet, as you say, the SVT idea "keeps cropping up." Perhaps one simply cannot keep a good idea down.

The Gazette calls SVT "sort of the tuition tax credit proposal of the development world." A poor analogy. Tuition tax credits give relief to those who are sufficiently affluent to send their kids to college; it ignores poor parents and their youngsters.

In contrast, SVT is no relief measure for developers. The current property tax imposes high penalties on those who build and maintain houses, apartments and commercial property. SVT would reduce or lift these penalties. But it would tax heavily those land speculators (including some developers) who hold good housing sites and other productive land off the market. SVT would attack these practices that keep those at the bottom of the economic scale from enjoying decent places to live and fair opportunities to work. Every application of SVT I know about, from Pittsburgh to Australia, suggests that poor people are among the prime beneficiaries. The Gazette should welcome—or at least keep an open mind to—the SVT study urged by Councilmember John Ray.

One almost suspects the Gazette would prefer to turn the District into a museum. This may be fine for those who are comfortable and who have found their niche in society. For those in poor circumstance who are trying to work their way up, a halt to growth is bad news. The long absence of new rental housing in D.C. is a case in point, and a sad one.

Admittedly much recent development has destroyed neighborhood, historic and even economic values. Anti-growth sentiment, if not justifiable, is understandable. Let it be underscored, however, that mindless commercial intrusions into residential areas of the District occurred, not under SVT, but under the conventional property tax.

Nobody claims that SVT alone will assure that we obtain the right kinds and scale of development in the right places, but it can be a vital element of a planning strategy toward that end. It could help open up alternative growth areas to relieve the pressures on neighborhoods that citizens would like to keep from being overrun. That would not be odd or dangerous.

WALTER RYBECK
League for Urban Land Conservation

Land taxation is a theory in search of an application. We've discussed this matter at length a number of times in the past, but just to review the bidding:

- *The land taxers seem to assume that there is vast acreage in DC that is underused. This simply isn't the case, witness the developers who are now trying to build on steep slopes (e.g. Tregaron) because most of the good land is gone.*

- *Land taxation would increase development pressures on near-in neighborhoods and on residential neighborhoods near Metro stops. Such a strategy seems to play right into the hands of Jim Gibson and others who think happiness is another high-rise. It would ruin these neighborhoods, however.*

- *The effort in taxation should be to move it towards equity. Taxing one type of wealth (land) and not another (buildings) moves in the opposite direction.*

- *'Land value' is a largely imaginative figure in a place where there isn't a lot of empty land changing hands. DC, for example, is thinking of ending separate valuations of land and buildings simply because there is inadequate basis for making such a separate assessment. --ED.*

. . .and roses?

What a disappointment it was to open up the December issue of the Gazette and not find a 'Roses & Thorns' column. I hope that it was just a temporary infusion of holiday good will that caused you to leave it out, and that we will see it in the future. How else does one know where one stands in this city?

CAROL RICHARDS
Washington DC

It's back, mean as ever, in this issue. -- ED.

Attack of the land taxers

Two pieces in the November issue deserve a joint response. Councilmember John Wilson's article "The Case for a Tax Freeze" introduces his proposal to freeze property assessments at current levels until a property was sold. Sure there are a lot of people on fixed incomes who are being squeezed by property taxes, but a freeze is the wrong solution. Better the council allow them to defer taxes until they sell or transfer the house to their children.

Mr. Wilson wants to use the assessment freeze to stop the crazy practice of increasing the property's assessment when the owner has finished an improvement, like an addition to a house. That's a problem alright, but the wrong solution.

Sam Smith's criticism of John Ray's proposal to study site value taxation (in the "D.C. Eye" column) offers no analysis, just a put-down. What a site value tax would do is take the property tax off

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CITY TALK

OUR READERS WRITE...



The case for Georgetown

The following was written to Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee after Juan Williams' op-ed attack on Georgetown. This statement was signed by members of the Citizens Planning Coalition in all eight wards.

It was with great surprise that we read the article in the Post's OpEd Section entitled "Georgetown: Separate City." In contrast to the usually thoughtful and perceptive articles by Mr. Juan Williams on such local issues as schools and government finance, the piece on Georgetown displays an ignorance of planning in Washington and an emotional bias against Georgetown. Leaving aside the question of banning gambling ads from Georgetown, which few Georgetowners and others know anything about, the fact is that Georgetown has not enjoyed preferential treatment in planning, zoning, and liquor licensing. To the contrary, because of the carefully nurtured, attractive environment created by the residents of Georgetown over many years, it has attracted almost unbridled development which has dramatically changed its character, driven out residents and neighborhood merchants, and created chaos on its streets. Because of this continual assault, citizens of Georgetown have been forced to go to court time after time to protect their neighborhood. In doing so, they have borne the burden for many neighborhoods of this city in carrying the weight of citizen arguments for sound planning and fair zoning. And more times than not, they have lost. Their losses have greatly affected the rest of the city.

The Georgetown waterfront case, which so offends Mr. Williams' sensibilities because of its cost, involved one of the most basic planning issues ever heard in the courts of this city—that is, whether or not zoning must be in accordance with a comprehensive land-use plan. Such a plan is mandated by the Home Rule Act. A badly split D.C. Court of Appeals decided that there was no legal requirement for the newly-formed home rule government to follow any plan it had not itself yet enacted, in effect holding that zoning was planning. In the process, the court reversed a decision, rendered just three months previously, holding the opposite in a case brought by Capitol Hill citizens. Both the Washington and Barry administrations have since avoided their responsibility to produce a plan, thereby encouraging wheeling and dealing with developers without citizen interference.

Also, contrary to the article's statement, most of us do not look upon the blight of the Georgetown waterfront as an argument for development. We view the concept of a park for that area as a benefit to the entire city and nation and as a logical extension of the riverfront park already in existence. The article's unwarranted prediction notwithstanding,

we believe that all citizens of this area and visitors from elsewhere would use such a park in a spirit of harmony and tranquility, as is the case with the rest of the riverfront park.

Moreover, the District of Columbia's fiscal and employment problems are not due to a lack of development on six acres of the Georgetown waterfront. As Mr. Williams has so perceptively pointed out numerous times, the financial mess here has been due in large measure to mismanagement by elected officials, not to any lack of development. In fact, Washington has been widely and correctly characterized as "Boomtown on the Potomac," with attendant growth of job opportunities. And the city's \$2 billion budget for just 635,000 persons is truly breathtaking.

We do not propose to permit the many sound neighborhoods of this city—whether in Georgetown or Anacostia—to be sacrificed on the often specious notions of tax base and jobs advanced by the city's business and political establishment. The citizens of this city have often had to defend the notions of sound planning and careful development against these extremely powerful forces. The Washington Post has contributed to neighborhood destabilization and frivolous public spending through its persistent support of such egregious schemes as the North Central Freeway, the Three Sisters Bridge, urban renewal, and the Convention Center. The citizens have been forced to attempt to stop these destructive acts by political action and by law suit.

The attack on Georgetown is an assault on the many citizens from all over the city who have sought, through planning, to achieve a sound, attractive city. Despite your assertion that the final decision on what happens in the city should be the government's, in fact the law provides that the final decision in local planning matters resides in the citizens who, under the home rule act, must be permitted to participate in the development of the local elements of the comprehensive plan and then have a vote on the final product through their city council representatives. Thus far, we have been prevented from doing so by the mayor and his planning office, which have refused to follow the law. It is not the Georgetowners who are excluding us, it is our own government.

The next time the Post writes a story about planning and zoning issues, it might want to look at the real questions and problems. What is happening in Georgetown is not what is happening in a separate city, it is what is happening to all of us.

Sic transit Exile

One of the altars of gay culture in Washington, D.C. is being dismantled, and the resident gods of worship are dismayed and dishonored. The recent surprise announcement that the D.C. Exile would close on January 15 came as quite a shock to the

regular habitués. The dance, drink, cinema, cruise crowd will possibly have to move to the *Lost and Found* or to *Louis'/Rogue* and to the other local watering holes. This is not just the closing of the *Exile*, per se; but, rather a changing of the guard and the end of an era in downtown gay night life.

The D.C. *Exile*, formerly *The Eagle-in-Exile* had been a disco/drink palace of some gay sociosexual importance in the old downtown business corridor and was located north of Chinatown, south of Mount Vernon Square, and directly across from the new D.C. Convention Center. Some had described it as tacky, but in recent months, it had become a somewhat "trendy" dance spot and sex scene, drawing large weekend crowds. The *Exile* had not adopted punk rock as a musical style, and so was therefore quite unlike the *9:30 F Club* located down the block. Like the now-defunct *Court Jester* in Georgetown and *The Disco Room* near the Greyhound Bus Terminal downtown, the sudden closing and shuttering of the club has caught the patrons with their disco duds down, and with an intense longing for a tea dance, some Quicksilver, a two-for-one drink policy, and a dark cruise alcove.

The D.C. *Exile* had become a venerable gay institution at 9th and New York avenue for ten years of struggle and stress, youthfulness and aging. The disco/bar was housed in a cream-colored executive looking building labeled erroneously, "818 K Club." This building of massive arches and pillars will now probably become a sepulchral office project directly across from the ever expanding renovation tidal waves of the D.C. Convention Center. The new, or allegedly "revamped," D.C. *Exile* will be located at 925 - 5th Street, N.W., near the GAO in a somewhat undesirable burned-out warehouse district. The atmosphere and spirit will hardly be the same, but we shall wait and have to hope for the best.

In recent years, since the March on Washington 1979 by gays, many changes had been taking place at the D.C. *Exile*. Some were welcome; others were questionable. In June 1980, the *Exile* was totally disconnected from its parent life-support system, the D.C. Eagle Inc., and was sold to the Lou Ritz Partnership. The weekly Sunday dinner-drink festival was deleted, but a sex cruise room, "The Vault" was added, as were the projection of erotic male color films and slides. The drink prices were fairly stable even in times of severe inflation, and entry cover fees only increased slightly. The music was always varied, and often tended to pure disco or black rock-and-soul, with little punk rock, hard rock, or mellow music ever sandwiched in between. The sensuous Neolithic-type paintings of four male "types" on the rear walls in mural tones of black, white, and gray were always an admirable work of sociosexual art which spoke loudly to our inner fears and fantasies, courtesy of Dallan as signified in 1978. The pool tables remained (often used for seating) as did video games and pinballs, but the church pews and most of the dining tables were quietly removed. The male disco diva was pictured like an altarpiece and framed by the right side of

The Gazette welcomes short articles by its readers on aspects of city life. Pieces of three double-spaced typewritten pages or less would be particularly appreciated. Mail to the Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009, by the fifteenth of the month.

the western-style bathroom doors, asking eternally, "Wanna Dance?"

The *Exile* was also an interesting architectural triumph of sorts, with its mirrored spaces and thick marble, its columns and arches, winding stairway, and stained glass windows, brick, and wooden coral slats. The baroque marble stairway from the top floor to "The Value," the downstairs darkened cruise room off the bathroom, was well-worn as some stairways are by the feet of curious innocents, sexual virgins, and sexually active males out for yet another trick or encounter. The mirrored niche above the disco floor, with or without the muted lighting, saw many seminude males strutting their stuff over the years. Redlights were scattered here and there overhead, creating a dreamy hypnotic atmosphere in many smoke-filled dance sessions. The sturdy impenetrable black-topped marble bars led to a feeling that drinks were a way of life and that the *Exile* tradition would go on forever without an end in sight. Alas, no.

Many friends and buddies were met and made waiting in lines for food or to use the cramped bathroom facilities at the *Exile*. But who could complain about a full stomach or an unrelieved bladder in the din of erotic, sensuous, mind-hypnotizing disco dance music of many stylish black funk singers and assorted vanilla disco freaks

and soul children? There were never any major fire problems at this disco, even though at times, on the weekends it seemed to be overcrowded beyond capacity. Patrons could flow in and out, going to and from the *Eagle* or *Man's World* just as long as they had a hand stamped in black ink: "Exile." Cruising was very difficult upstairs near the dance areas due to traffic flow in and out, bathroom movement, coat-check movement, and also due to the intense noise level, not to mention the yelling and use of whistles by dancers. The best cruising areas were definitely in the lower level of the *Exile*.

The flashing, pulsating disco lights of the *Exile* reminded one of Xmas celebrations all year round. Your present was of course whomever was sexually available and willing to share. The cartouche audio speakers were a wise sound amplification which unfortunately took up some space from the intimate "love corners" on the dance floor. The massive pillars in the main upstairs bar area and dance floor area functioned as quasi-phallic symbols warning everyone to "be a real man," perhaps trying to persuade every "real" man to impregnate the sky like the prime Capitol city phallic symbol, the Washington Monument. The traditional corral fence ringing the upstairs disco dance floor at the *Exile* was quietly deleted as were many cowboy hats and western influences as the *Exile* went pure disco and heavy leather mixed with a tinge of hot sex.

The loss of the *Exile* was a major event of sadness at the end of 1981. No matter how the institution is re-packaged and re-opened, the recycling

will be faulty. It is always depressing and disconcerting when there is a death in a family. In many ways, this is what is happening, not only to the old gay downtown area of D.C., but to much of Washington in which the poor people (Blacks, Hispanics, Asians) reside.

Our extended gay family of party-oriented brothers and sisters must communally mourn the closing of the D.C. *Exile* at 9th and New York Ave. Hopefully, the renaissance and resurrection of the phoenix-style D.C. *Exile* at 925 - 5th Street, N.W., will successfully fill the vacuum. We will now find it necessary to decide if our loyalties will consequently follow up on this transition. Our lambda rings, spilled Rush, florid gay consciousness, *Exile* tee-shirts, gold necklaces, coat-check stubs, cigarettes, fantasies, and realities have all too often been connected with the inner life and workings of the D.C. *Exile*. Our minds will not let us be easily disconnected from that physical space and psychic landscape.

We wonder if this will be a fond farewell or ultimate burial. To be exiled from the D.C. *Exile* would ironically be too cruel a fate for the sociosexual renegades and pioneers already made pariahs-in-exile by this Pilgrim, Puritan, Judaeo-Christian society. We will await the results of the re-location with mixed emotions.

—AC/DC

It is designed to help landlords and tenants understand the major provisions of the D.C. rent control program and the procedures and services of the Rental Accommodations Office.

The guide, which is available in both English and Spanish, is available free from the D.C. Rental Accommodations Office, 420 7th Street, N.W., Third Floor, Washington, D.C. 20004. Info: 724-5600.



The Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute is offering a janitorial and grounds maintenance service to the community. The Kennedy Institute has provided education and rehabilitation services for persons with mental retardation in the District of Columbia area since 1959.

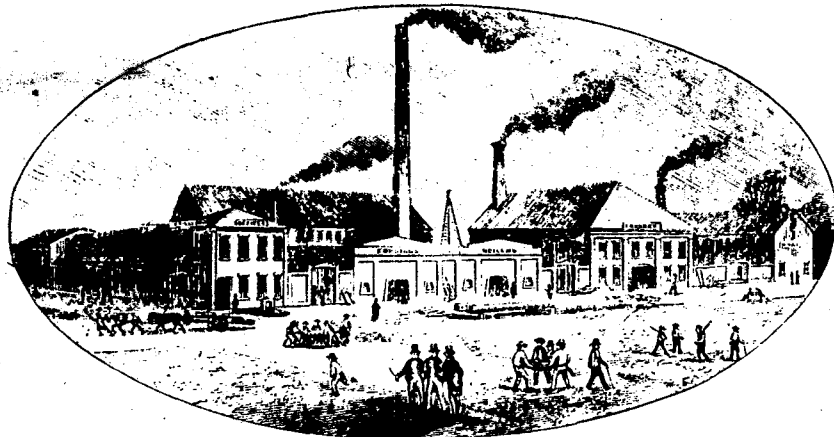
In 1978, several students were hired part-time to maintain the grounds at Kennedy. The purpose of the project was to employ students, needing work experience and provide them an income earning opportunity. Soon many students were interested in the few positions available; those who were employed desired more hours and teachers, counselors and parents referred persons they felt would benefit from the experience.

In order to meet this demand, Kennedy added a janitorial services and secured additional work in the community. Presently, the crews maintain the physical plant at the Kennedy Institute as well as five commercial contracts in the community.

Additional work is needed and Kennedy welcomes the opportunity to bid on janitorial and grounds maintenance contracts. For further information, contact Hugh Turley, Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute, phone number: 529-7600.

The D.C. Rental Accommodations Office announces the availability of a booklet, "Guide to Rental Housing in the District of Columbia."

The brochure provides basic information about the rights, responsibilities and obligations of landlords and tenants under the Rental Housing Act of 1980, which became effective May 1.



THE IDEA MILL

An eight-week workshop entitled "Effective Speaking for Professionals" will be offered by the Catholic University of America Feb. 11-April 1 as part of the university's Continuing Education program.

Designed to improve the speaking skills of engineers and architects, participants in the workshop will be divided according to ability and experience. Through the use of audio and video taping at each session, individual problems will be recognized and constructive suggestions offered.

The workshop will meet on Thursday evenings at 7-9:30 p.m. in Room 101 of Hartke Theatre on the Catholic University campus.

The workshop's fee, which covers all supporting materials, is \$350. Due to the personal attention that will be offered, enrollment is limited to 20 participants.

To register or obtain more information, call Minerva Haller in Catholic University's Office of Continuing Education, (202) 635-5256.

Seven courses will be offered this spring semester as part of Catholic University's Gerontology Certificate Program.

Courses scheduled include: "Coping with Life Crises," "Counseling the Mature Adult," "Social Gerontology," "Social Policy and Community Planning for the Aged," "Physiological, Psycholo-

gical and Social Aspects of Aging" and "Cross-cultural Perspectives on Aging." In addition a "Supervised Practicum in Gerontology" will be offered for students with no prior experience in service to the elderly.

"One specific aim of the program is to provide Catholic Church personnel with a short-term program that will train them for ministry to the elderly," says Michael Creedon, coordinator of education for the university's Center for the Study of Pre-retirement and Aging. "But it is not confined to training and helping only Catholics. The program also seeks to meet the needs of those who either wish to work or already are working with the elderly, but need specialized training."

One aspect of the university's Gerontology Certificate Program is the flexibility allowed in completing the 15-credit program. The student can complete the program at his or her own pace, in a variety of combinations of semesters, summer institutes and evening courses.

Although, 10 different courses are offered in the program each year. In addition to regular course work, the university's Center for the Study of Pre-retirement and Aging offers workshops, seminars, symposia and conferences on a variety of topics of national and regional interest related to "aging" issues.

For more information call Michael Creedon at 635-5483.

WARD THREE NEWS

City council race

It is only January and the Ward Three city council race is already getting crowded. Incumbent Polly Shackleton remains a substantial force despite growing criticism of her handling of the office. Shackleton remains the Whitehurst Freeway of Ward Three politics - you may not like her but it's a hell of a job to tear her down.

There is little doubt, however, that opposition to Shackleton is growing. Shackleton's lack of involvement with groups fighting for increased aid to the public schools, fighting cutbacks in recreation and trying to slow traffic on Reno Road will hurt her as will the recent redistricting ploy.

On the other hand, she is far better known than any of her potential opponents and still retains many loyal supporters. Further, at a recent ward party he gave, the mayor heaped praise on Polly apparently indifferent to the fact that there were four potential Democratic opponents in the room.

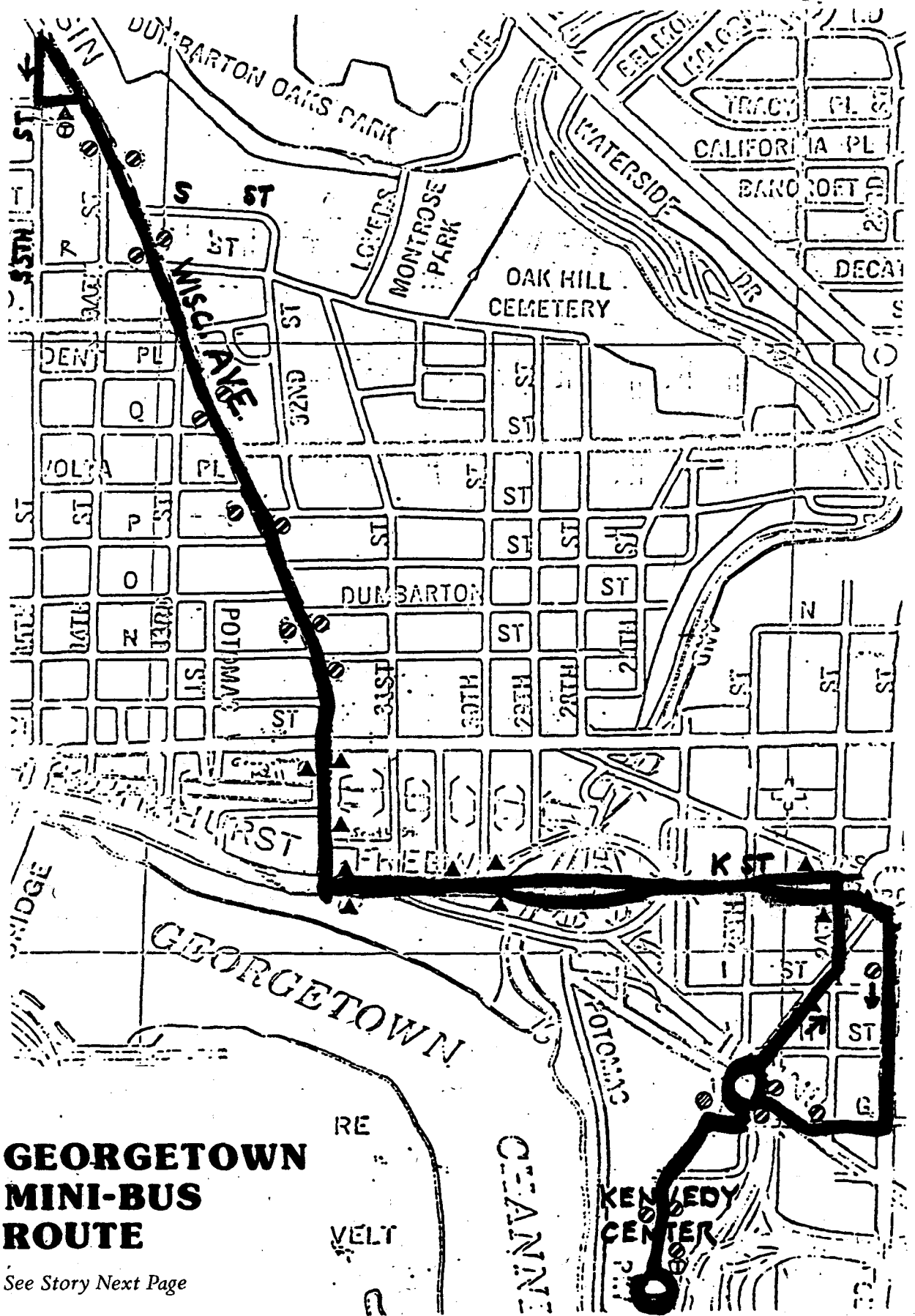
One of these is Ruth Dixon, the former head of the League of Women Voters. Another is Kay McGrath, who was a community activist for many years (McLean Gardens et al) but who lately has been working for the Barry administration. It is expected that McGrath may not run now that Shackleton is going to. Although she is fairly well known, her association with Barry and her lack of recent involvement in the neighborhood could prove a handicap.

Two lesser known potential candidates are Joel Garner, who has been active in the statehood movement and neighborhood affairs and Mark Plotkin, who has had extensive experience in national campaigns and who once taught in the DC public schools. He is little known in the ward, however.

Whoever wins the Democratic nomination will face stiff Republican opposition. If outgoing school board member Carol Schwartz decides to run, the Ward III race could be quite a hot one. Another potential GOP candidate is Gloria Korn.

NORTHWEST TOY WARS

If you bought any of your toys at FAO Schwarz during the holidays, you spent more money in northwest DC than you had to -- according to the annual toy survey of Americans for Democratic Action. A market basket of 14 toys was 36% higher at FAO Schwarz than at Lowens and another basket of six toys was 33% higher than at Sullivans. You could have saved another 13% over the Sullivan's price by shopping for those six items at Lowens. The toy survey also checked six items at Sullivan's compared with the nearby G.C. Murphy's. Murphy's came out ten percent cheaper than Sullivans and was higher on only one item, Gimme Five. Some of the differences were quite dramatic: the Crayola Caddy was \$14.97 at Sullivans and \$11.99 at Murphys. The survey, now in its tenth year, is run by Ann Brown, who chairs the Consumer Affairs Committee of the local ADA.



GEORGETOWN MINI-BUS ROUTE

See Story Next Page

WARD THREE'S EMPTY CLASSROOM MYTH

In one of her last reports to the community, Ward III school board member Carol Schwartz warns NW parents to keep an eye on the school closing controversy. Frequently, Ward III schools are targeted for closing but, as Schwartz points out, Ward III has only 852 empty classrooms compared with Ward I's 3,223 (the ward with the next lowest number of empty classrooms) and Ward VII's 7,173. Says Schwartz, "Politically, the sentiment is that if you close a school east of the park than one should be closed west of the park. I have successfully fought those sentiments during my tenure and will continue to do so as a parent and citizen of Ward III. The numbers do not justify school closings in our ward until many other closings in other parts of the city occur."

BEACH DRIVE CLOSING

The National Park Service will hold hearings on closing Beach Drive to commuter traffic before a final decision is made sometime this spring. According to NPS's James Redmond, the park service is analyzing questionnaires returned by commuters.

WARD THREE NOTES CONT'D

The Glover-Foxhall Neighborhood Commission proposed free enterprise zones, as contained in legislation now before the city council. The Zoning commission has given final approval to a planned unit development in the 2300 block of Wisconsin Ave. The mixed use development was approved after the developers agreed to provide 13 below-

Judith Beck Helm's *Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood*, been recently published.

Tenleytown is the old Washington neighborhood that centers around Wisconsin Avenue and River Road. *Tenleytown, D.C.* describes the 200-year history of the neighborhood that was once called Tennallytown—from Indian trail to Wisconsin Avenue; from the "Friendship" land grant to the Friendship Heights commercial center; from Civil War site to black settlement to Fort Reno Park; and from stagecoach to streetcar to subway.

Tenleytown, D.C. is available at Baker Photo, Victorian House Antiques, and by mail order from Tennally Press, P.O. Box 9438, Washington, D.C. 20016. When the order is by mail, the cost is \$14.95 plus .90 tax (for D.C. residents only), and \$1.90 postage and handling for each copy ordered.

The 630-page paperback book (8½ x 5½") contains 250 photos of people and places in Tenleytown's past, as well as 25 maps and sketches. The history is based on interviews with over 200 Tenleytowners and extensive archival and on-site research.

Judith Helm is a native of Washington who has lived on Alton Place in Tenleytown since 1967. She began research for the book in 1972, with Priscilla McNeil, who did most of the archival research, especially on land grants and early settlers.

market rent apartments -- or if sufficient government funds were not available for that -- condominiums priced at \$50,000 plus an inflation factor to time of settlement.

.... The Second District had the best record in crime reduction in the third quarter of last year of any of the city's police districts. Crime went down for the period 5.9 percent.

.... The Children's Museum has set up a children's French and Spanish Library in a 19th century schoolhouse at 4954 MacArthur Blvd. NW. The Department of Recreation has agreed to build tennis courts at Fort Reno Park. The Chevy Chase Commission gave its approval to granting a liquor license to Zeltner's on Conn. Ave., provided the sidewalk is kept clean and the deli-restaurant primarily serves customers who come to eat.

Georgetown

GEORGETOWN TAKES IT IN THE CHOPS

Even as the city council was moving to bounce Georgetown over into Ward Two, the neighborhood received another shock when it awoke to find it being severely chastised in the Washington Post in an op-ed piece by Juan Williams. The article was one of the more foolish ones we've seen in the Post of late, to wit:

• Williams attacked Georgetown's opposition to overdevelopment (via Metro and the waterfront plan) despite his own admission that the area has "the worst traffic and parking problems."

• He attacked the building of brick sidewalks at private expense in Georgetown, but neither he nor his colleagues at the Post have raised any complaints about the sidewalk Sahara being built by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Commission at public expense.

• He attacked Georgetown for failing to stop some GOP congressman from attaching a rider banning the lottery there despite his admission that the legislation was not caused by "opposition

from some powerful and organized residents."

• He attacked Georgetown for spending \$100,000 to fight developers who spent many times that amount forcing an unwanted zoning change down the neighborhood's throat.

• And he attacked Georgetown for not contributing more to the city treasury (by permitting full development of the waterfront) despite that area's already disproportionate contribution to the city's coffers.

In fact, Georgetown has been more than adequately pillaged by two city administrations looking for more tax dollars. It has provided key organizational and financial support for black candidates ever since the beginning of home rule. Its leaders have been involved in numerous citywide civic battles all the way back the anti-freeway wars and have seldom been a major obstacle to any project in the city's overall interest. Georgetown's political record has been moderate and -- given its socio-economic status, it may well be one of the more politically progressive communities of its class in the country. Finally, it has shown that one can develop a neighborhood economy without endless public sinicures for city planners, public subsidy for developers and soul-numbing concrete and glass cubes stacked along our streets like cartons in an overstocked warehouse.

GEORGETOWN NOTES

Lots of talk about Don Shannon's set-to with Polly Shackleton last month at a party for supporters of Mary Ann Keefe. According to the Post account, Shackleton called Shannon and his Georgetown Citizens Association members "stupid or venal" for attempting to block the transfer of G-town to Ward Two. Shannon said of Shackleton, whom he had earlier criticized for failing to help stop the redistricting, "She doesn't have the interest any more -- she just can't hack it. I don't know why she hangs around. She ought to cut her losses and get out."

.... During the debate on the issue,

A new Metro-Mini Bus service has begun on a route along Wisconsin Avenue, K Street and 23rd and 24th Streets, N.W.

Under the District of Columbia Small Bus Program, this six month demonstration program is designed to bring more accessible public transportation to the city's neighborhoods.

Four experimental routes were selected following a series of public hearings. The Georgetown-Kennedy Center route is the first to open.

The new service uses the former "Downtown" buses, which ran along the K Street and F Street business areas.

Georgetown merchants have provided financial support for Metro-Mini route signs and advertising for the new service.

The Georgetown-Kennedy Center Metro-Mini route will follow these operating procedures:

• Service will be provided every 15 minutes Monday-Saturday, 6:45 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

• A flat fare of 50 cents will be charged at all times. Other fare-related passes such as elderly and handicapped discount cards, student tickets and tokens, flash passes, and standard Metrobus and Metrorail transfer will be honored on the Metro-Mini.

• Metro-Mini bus patrons wishing to transfer to Metrobus will be able to do so by paying full fare on the Metro-Mini and receiving a transfer valid on Metrobus.

Shackleton said Georgetown activists "did not care" which ward they were in and abstained from voting With the official designation of Blues Alley with a green and white street sign, Georgetown may have become to the first community in the country to have a street named after a nightclub.

The Citizens Association of Georgetown has filed suit against the city to make it turn the Market House back into a traditional farmers market. The group charged that the market had become primarily a fast-food center in violation of a 1966 congressional act establishing the market. The Georgetown Neighborhood Commission has come out against the renewal of a liquor license for the SS Williamsburg, a floating restaurant planned for the waterfront. The commission argues that the restaurant would add to the area's traffic and parking problems. The commission also opposed license applications for Market House Meats and Market House Seafood.

Cleveland Park

TREGARON PUD SUMMITTED

The Tregaron Corporation has applied to the Zoning Commission for permission to upzone the Tregaron estate from R1A to R1B. The corporation wants to build approximately 120 single family high-priced dwellings on the site with a maximum height of 40 feet and a total of about three hundred parking spaces. This is about a thirty percent reduction in the number of houses sought for the 15-acre tract in previous proposals, but stiff opposition can be expected from the neighborhood.

CLEVELAND PARK METRO STATION OPENS

The Cleveland Park Metro station opened last month with a healthy crowd of Cleveland Parkers on hand for the event. The mayor, who had been drenched in the rain that accompanied an earlier opening of the Woodley Park Station, missed the Cleveland Park affair -- he reportedly was changing his clothes. Budget director Gladys Mack substituted.

MCLEAN GARDENS FILES PUD

The McLean Gardens partnership is filing an application with the Zoning Commission which, if approved, would permit 650 new residential units at the site along with 40,000 square feet of office and retail space, as well as a community recreational facility.

The move, which had been expected, would dramatically change the nature of the site-- including some buildings as high as ninety feet. The residential units would be in a mixture of mews, mid-rise and high-rise structures. The retail space would be centered near Wisconsin and Porter and the community center would include exercise facilities and an indoor swimming pool. Some 700 parking spaces would be provided.

MORE NEIGHBOHOOD NEWS FOLLOWS WEATHER REPORT



Weather

Report

TIME FOR POLITICS

Sam Smith

In the sixties and seventies, radicals and progressives left the Democratic party and politics in general in droves. Well, the absolute mass may not have been that much, but you have to remember that we're not talking about mere voters. We're talking about workers, thinkers, movers, and rearrangers of things. We're talking about peace activists, feminists, black nationalists, environmentalists and converts to the anti-political world of the counter-culture. The energy transfer was considerable.

Those of us who once were, or might of been, active in Democratic politics chose not to be for a variety of reasons. There were events -- like the awful denouement of the 1968 Democratic convention. There was a narrowing a focus by many to specific issues and causes. There was the appeal of action outside the normal bounds of politics -- from Naderism or mass demonstrations to manufacturing bombs in New York townhouses. And for some there was the promise of a hallucinatory utopia -- with the right combination of drugs and music you didn't need to build a dream world, you just bought it on the street.

There was, to be sure, an attempt by the Democratic Party to straighten things out after the 1968 debacle. But the party reforms seemed only to alienate old constituencies without creating a new politics. The reformers meant well -- and often did well, but somehow instead of rejuvenating the party they had the effect of an embalmer's cosmetician -- a nicer looking body indeed it was, but still a body.

Besides, there were all these forces the reformers couldn't control. The growth of megabuck politics, the random chaos caused by the media's insatiable appetite for what it called news but which those on both sides of the screen increasingly perceived as a form of show business, the abysmal quality of the party's leadership and the rise of the polyester politician.

In the end, both the reformers and the resisters of reform failed. The pay-off has been, at least for the present, the most reactionary government in fifty years.

Which concentrates the mind rather nicely. And as I think about it, one of the first thoughts that bubbles up is that the hard right never told politics to kiss off. It hung in there fighting every two-bit scrap until it had warped the GOP to its liking. It might have been able to do it simply by amassing money and manipulating the media (both of which it did quite capably) but its medium was also party politics.

Progressives will never, no matter how much they imitate the right's fund-raising techniques, be able to turn their cause into

a reverse cornucopia and publishers will never, in any numbers, print anything to the left of Patrick Moynihan except to salve their occasional conscience, but progressives, like the right, do have the option of party politics. In these dark hours, it is at least worth trying to think that the Democratic Party can rise again.

Obviously, it won't be easy. The three horsemen of the political apocalypse -- Money, Media and Mediocrity, are at full gallop and the springs of the spirit can hardly be found along the campaign trail anymore. But the alternative is abject surrender. Besides, if progressives continue to politically disengaged, even if Ronald Reagan produces the banana peel upon which the Republican candidate slips into obscurity in 1984, the Democratic victor may be only marginally more sufferable.

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This is not 1968. I don't mind taking my share of the heat for the loss of Hubert Humphrey at a time when conscience was screaming and when peace was worth a dozen political defeats. But to not even try now is merely an act of lethargy and indifference. It's watching the old lady get mugged and leaving the scene without a move or a pang. It's not a response to a moral mandate but the protection of individual smugness at the expense of broader misery, just as the Reaganites let millions suffer in the name of their Christianity and capitalistic pride.

There may be marches again. There may be movements again. No doubt the increasing concern over nuclear policy alone will force that. But there is nothing in the ordinary daily travail of the average American progressive activist to suggest that continuing to reject direct political involvement will provide either purity or progress. It may have been true once, but today we can not foster disarmament, human justice, economic or environmental sanity by refusing to do business with the Democratic Party. So I'm going back in.

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It's not that the Democratic Party is so attractive. In fact, one of its few appealing qualities is its catatonia. Somebody's going to figure out how to use it and the way things are going it will be some sandy-haired fellow with steel blue eyes and a clip-on chin who thinks an issue is something you invent to get you through a campaign. They're the predominant type in the politics of both parties anymore -- because the power hogs can count on them not to think and the media can count on them not to perspire under the lights.

They're there because politics has somehow

been turned upside down. Instead of being a product manufactured in the precincts of America, it is assembled, prepackaged and shipped out to those precincts where the voters are forced to buy this year's model and can't even look inside the box until they've paid for it.

One of the things that radicals and progressives can do by going back into the Democratic Party is to make the voter a producer again, rather than merely a manipulated consumer. The very skills that activist organizers have learned in their years of effort outside the political system can be equally applied within that system. After all, who knows more about short-circuiting the media/money machine than such people? If it worked for peace, for environmental issues, for civil rights, it might just work for Democratic politics as well.

I'm not talking primarily of activists running for office, but of infiltrating the party machinery in order to provide the context in which those who do run for office will be forced to act, just as public interest groups created the political context for various specific issues. I'm thinking, in short, of treating the Democratic Party like one big public interest group.

For this to succeed without the aid of money and the media, organizing would have to be done at a very local level, where money doesn't matter so much, the mass journalists are disinterested and the mass advertising dollar is wasted.

Unglamorous as this may seem, there is in the precincts of this country a secret, unused political weapon: a constituency. There has been a strong trend in recent years towards the disposable constituency. Since politics depends so heavily on the media, and since media politics is mostly sustainable only for short periods prior to elections, maintaining a permanent constituency is no longer, to the modern politician, cost-effective in many cases. It's not even particularly desirable since it creates all the obnoxious by-products of human contact. Far simpler to concentrate one's effort in an image blitz before each election much in the manner that toy stores do the bulk of their business in the weeks immediately before Christmas.

The typical politician doesn't want to hear too much from constituents between elections and the media system is perfectly designed to avoid the necessity.

I would submit, however, that no matter how much politics has changed, ordinary people haven't changed that much. They would still be happier with politicians they knew something about, who listened to them during the long inter-campaign winters and who came to them not as salesmen but as representa-

tives. The politicians may not need permanent constituencies, but voters still need to be part of one to be politically satisfied.

Here then, is the opportunity for the activist joining the political fray: to organize not just to elect certain people but to create the political world in which all elected people will have to operate. Not merely to promote candidates but to build an organization. If the latter is done effectively the former will take care of itself.

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While in many respects, the former non-political activist is ideally suited for this task, in several this is not the case.

For example, politics involves a degree of compromise that is not highly regarded in the activist world outside of the parties. It would undoubtedly be a bit of trauma for an ex-Naderite, for example, to run up against the temporary alliances one sometimes makes in conventional politics or for feminists to deal with the candidate who doesn't think it wise to bring up abortion during the campaign. My thinking about this goes along these lines:

Accept politics as a place in which some

compromise is necessary. Make your stand but follow your heart and your instincts rather than abstract moral principles. Further, function by the law of averages. The best sluggers in baseball miss the ball more than half the time and politicians are not nearly as skillfully trained.

Finally, you can operate on several levels. For example, I have never seen a local candidate in my city who had a public transportation policy that was worth a damn. Since sound transportation policy is a pet cause of mine I could easily justify not voting for any candidate on transit issues alone. But this approach, aggregated throughout the electorate, would produce neither a good transportation policy nor good candidates. In fact, the tendency of those who care most passionately about key issues to opt out of the political system helps insure that candidates don't have to deal with those issues.

Another respect in which the sixties/seventies-type activist is not particularly well qualified is having fun. The sad fact is that too few radicals and progressives operate on Emma Goldman's maxim that if I can't dance I don't want to be in your revolution.

Fortunately, most of those in traditional politics have lost the sense of fun as well, so its reincarnation in politics is up for grabs. It is not a matter to be taken lightly. If communities are to be organized politically, the political organizations must be social as well as political. Otherwise, they will tend to dwindle into the sort of entities with which we are all too familiar -- tiny cells of true, and truly ineffective, believers.

To mitigate this tendency of causes to contract into their purest definition, it helps, I think, to consider political activity as a social act as well, to build not just a cause but a community. In cities especially, where the lack of social communities is particularly striking, political clubs could well perform this function. There is nothing odd or untested about this. It has been a tradition in several locations and, of course, the church operates on just such a dual level of community and commitment. Further, if you're new in a strange town and you're a Presbyterian, one of the easiest entry-points to that city is the local Presbyterian church. At the present time, in most places, there is no political equivalent. But there could be.

LIFE & RELATED SUBJECTS

Dave Barry

Almost all housework is hard and dangerous, involving the insides of ovens and toilets and the cracks between bathroom tiles, where plague germs fester. The only housework that is easy and satisfying is the kind where you spray chemicals on wooden furniture and smear them around until the wood looks shiny. This is the kind of housework they show on television commercials: A professional actress, posing as the Cheerful Housewife (IQ 43), dances around her house, smearing and shining, smearing and shining, until before she knows it her housework is done and she is free to spend the rest of the afternoon reading the bust-development ads in *Cosmopolitan* magazine. She never cleans her toilets. When they get dirty, she just gets another house. Lord knows they pay her enough.

Most of us would rather smear and shine than actually clean anything. For example, our house has a semi-finished basement, which means it looks too much like a finished room to store old tires in, but too much like a basement to actually live in. Our semi-finished basement has a semi-bathroom, and one time, several years ago, a small woodland creature crept into the house in the middle of the night and died in the shower stall. This is common behavior in the animal world: Many animals, when in danger, are driven by instinct to seek refuge in shower stalls.

Since we hardly ever go down to our semi-finished basement, we didn't discover the dead woodland creature until several weeks after it crept in, at which time it was getting fairly ripe. Now obviously, the correct thing to do was clean it up, but this is the hard kind of housework. So instead we stayed upstairs and went into an absolute frenzy of smearing and shining, until you could not walk into our living room without wearing sunglasses, for fear of being blinded by the glare off the woodwork. Eventually, we managed to block the woodland creature out of our minds.

Several months later, our friend Rob, who is a doctor, came to visit. He stayed in our semi-finished basement, but we noticed that he came upstairs to take showers. One of the first things they teach you in medical school is never to take a shower with a dead woodland creature. We were so embarrassed that we went down and cleaned up the shower stall, with a shovel and acid. But I doubt we'd have done it if Rob hadn't been there.

Our behavior is not unique. People have been avoiding housework for millions of years. Primitive man would stay in one cave until the floor was littered with stegosaurus bones and the walls were covered with primitive drawings, which were drawn by primitive children when their parents went out to dinner, and then the family would move to a new cave, to avoid cleaning the old one. That's how primitive man eventually got to North America.

In North America, primitive man started running out of clean caves, and he realized that somebody was going to have to start doing housework. He thought about it long and hard, and finally settled on primitive woman. But he needed an excuse to get himself out of doing the housework, so he invented civilization. Primitive woman would say: "How about staying in the cave and helping with the housework today?" And primitive man would say: "I can't, dear: I have to invent fire." Or: "I'd love to, dear, but I think it's more important that I devise some form of written language." And off he'd go, leaving the woman with the real work.

Over the years, men came up with thousands of excuses for not doing housework -- wars, religion, pyramids, the United States Senate -- until finally they hit on the ultimate excuse: Business. They built thousands of offices and factories, and every day, all over the country, they'd get up, eat breakfast, and announce: "Well, I'm off to my office or factory now." Then they'd just leave, and they wouldn't return until the house was all cleaned up and dinner was ready.

But then men made a stupid mistake. They started to believe that "business" really was hard work, and they started talking about it when they came home. They'd come in the door looking exhausted, and they'd say things like: "Boy, I sure had a tough meeting today."

You can imagine how a woman who had spent the day doing housework would react to this kind of statement. She'd say to herself: "Meeting? He had a tough meeting? I've been on my hands and knees all day cleaning toilets and scraping congealed spider eggs off the underside of the refrigerator, and he tells me he had a tough meeting?"

That was the beginning of the end. Women began to look into "business," and they discovered that all you do is go to an office and answer the phone and do various things with pieces of paper and have meetings. So women began going to work, and now nobody does housework, other than smearing and shining, and before long there's going to be so much crud and bacteria under the nation's refrigerators that we're all going to get diseases and die.

The obvious and fair solution to this problem is to let men do the housework for, say, the next six thousand years, to even things up. The trouble is that men, over the years, have developed an inflated notion of the importance of everything they do, so that before long they would turn housework into just as much of a charade as business is now. They would hire secretaries and buy computers and fly off to housework conferences in Bermuda, but they'd never clean anything. So men are out.

But there is a solution: There is a way to get people to willingly do housework. I discovered this by watching household-cleanser commercials on television. What I discovered is that many people who seem otherwise normal will do virtually any idiot thing if they think they will be featured in a commercial. They figure if they get on a commercial, they'll make a lot of money, like the Cheerful Housewife, and they'll be able to buy cleaner houses. So they'll do anything.

For example, if I walked up to you in the middle of a supermarket and asked you to get down and scrub the floor with two different cleansers, just so I could see which one worked better, you would punch me in the mouth. But if I had guys with cameras and microphones with me, and I asked you to do the same thing, you'd probably do it. Not only that, but you'd make lots of serious, earnest comments about the cleansers. You'd say: "I frankly believe that New Miracle Swipe, with its combination of grease-fighters and wax-shiners, is a more effective cleanser. I honestly do. Really. I mean it." You'd say this in the same solemn tone of voice you might use to discuss the question of whether the United States should deploy Cruise missiles in Western Europe. You'd have no shame at all.

So here's my plan: I'm going to get some old cameras and microphones and position them around my house. I figure that before long I'll have dozens of people just dying to do housework in front of my cameras. Sure, most of them will eventually figure out that they're not going to be in a commercial, but new ones will come along to replace them. Meanwhile, I'll be at work.

Is comprehensive health insurance hazardous to your health? A Rand Corporation study shows that people with health insurance plans covering all their medical expenses generate about fifty percent more medical bills than those who have to pick up part of the cost themselves. The study -- sponsored by the federal government -- says those with full coverage average about \$430 a year in medical bills, compared to less than three hundred dollars among those who must pay a percentage of the bills on their own.

Scientists are puzzled by a rash of birth defects and miscarriages apparently afflicting women who work with video display terminals. In one incident, four of seven children born to women who worked with VDTs at a Toronto newspaper had birth defects. In Marietta, Georgia, seven out of fifteen pregnant VDT operators suffered miscarriages and three others gave birth to babies with severe birth defects. Similar incidents were reported among Sears, Roebuck workers in Dallas and Air Canada employees in Montreal. After investigating three of the four outbreaks, the National Center for Disease Control has given the VDTs a clean bill of health but some unions aren't so sure. Several Canadian firms, including Bell Telephone of Canada, now offer pregnant women the right to refuse to work with the video displays.

Meanwhile, a Norwegian researcher, who's documented nearly 200 cases of complexion problems among people who spend too much time in front of VDTs. Walter Olsen of the University of Bergen says the computers create an electrostatic field, and when that highly-charged air combines with stuffy working conditions it produces face rashes, especially among people who already have sensitive skin.

In some places, the local progressive Democratic club could be the local Democratic organization; in others it might be a haven for local Democratic dissidents, but in either case the goal would be not only to have an institution that was constructive and powerful but comfortable and enjoyable as well. In other words, politics would no longer just be politics but part of a lifestyle as well.

Once any significant number of progressive Democratic clubs sprung up there would be a need and a desire for them to join forces. They might even want, yes, a Washington office. But they would not likely model themselves on the elite principles of a Common Cause or Public Citizen or whatever George McGovern's latest gambit is -- where the grassroots are essentially manipulated from a Washington headquarters, but rather on a model of decentralized authority.

This model could be strikingly different from anything we've seen in this country so far. One reason is that modern communications and computer technology has created a potential, not widely noted, for efficiently decentralizing decision-making. It is no longer necessary for a national organization's people in Washington to guess what their members are thinking, nor justifiable for them to ignore what they are thinking. Today, all they have to do, and at surprisingly low cost, is ask.

Let us, for example, imagine the



BODY BEAT

A University of California scientists says people who eat hamburgers, eggs or sausages fried at high temperatures run a greater risk of developing cancer or genetic disease. Food toxicologist Leonard Bjeldanes says experiments show that when these high protein foods are grilled or broiled over a high flame, they can cause extensive genetic mutations -- and in humans such mutations are often associated with cancer. Bjeldanes says there's no evidence that hamburgers actually cause cancer, but until there's more research, it would be safer to simmer, stew or boil food, than to fry it. And when food is fried, he says, it should be done at low temperatures -- below 300 degrees -- to allow food to cook in its own juices.

An Oregon study says that housewives have twice the death rate from breast, ovary, colon, uterus and stomach cancer as women who work outside the home. The study blames the higher rate on carcinogens that affect women every day -- indoor pollution, toxic cleansers and even low-level radiation from TVs and microwave ovens. Psychological depression may be another reason for the death rate, according to Medical Self Care magazine, which says stress is

resulting in more drinking, smoking and lack of exercise among housewives, all of which makes them less resistant to disease.

Despite continued prodding from the government and insurance companies, fewer and fewer Americans are wearing seat belts. The latest figures show about one person in ten buckles up regularly, compared to one in eight only three years ago. What's worse, studies from John Hopkins University and General Motors show that those who need seat belts most -- the people who run red lights or tailgate on freeways -- the are the least likely to use them. Seat belt use is lowest this time of year, too: more riders, especially men, refuse to wear the belts around bulky winter clothing.

A California company is marketing a new portable device, called Sani-Fem, which enables women to urinate standing up, without taking their pants down. User Terri Wilder, of Sausalito, California, says she recently bought the plastic contraption and that although it "feels really weird at first," she quickly got used to it. Now, Wilder says, "I keep it in my glove compartment, and where I go, Sani-Fem goes." Sani-Fem (7415 Stewart and Gray Road, Downey, CA 90241) claims the device is perfect for sailors and hikers, when there's no toilet in sight.

Frequent sex is not a requirement for happy marriage, says researchers at Western Psychiatric Institute. In interviews with more than a hundred couples, some married over twenty years, more than a third of the women and sixteen percent of the men said they lacked interest in sex. Dr. Ellen Frank, who worked on the study, says, "Some people want sex and others do not. But in most cases, frequency is nothing to worry about. Emotional atmosphere is more important to a feeling of satisfaction."

existence of a network of progressive Democratic clubs with a Washington office faced with the recent AWACs issue. The Washington office could feed via their Atari 800 and WATS line all the local chapters the latest dope from the capital and in return get chapter reaction on strategies, compromises and position papers.

The Washington office would be able to report to the Hill and the press not the thoughts of its executive director or board -- as is the current tradition -- but the actual opinion of hundreds or thousands of Progressive Democratic Clubs all around the country -- and within a matter of days.

The computer could also be used as a tool for local organizers. One of the problems local groups face is the accumulation of data with which to fight community battles. While there have been various public interest networks and clearinghouses established over the years, their methods of acquiring and distributing information have tended to be archaic and expensive. Using a central computer for the accumulation of data, say, on nuclear issues and protests or how communities are coping with federal cutbacks, could make a big difference.

The mass media won't let people know what is happening in the corners of the country and the alternative media can't do it particularly efficiently. The computer could be an enormous boon to those working for the decentralization of authority and decisions.

I have suggested the creation of Democratic clubs outside the normal party organization for the simple reason that in many cases those involved would find themselves philosophically separate. There are many who, for example, would rebel at engaging in such normal party behavior as the knee-jerk endorsement of an entire slate. I don't think it is necessary -- or even possible initially -- to control the regular organization in most cases, but only to influence the context in which that organization and its candidates operate. It is by no means a wild scheme. Here in DC, for example, gay Democrats have been extremely effective working in the guise of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club. Gay political power in DC reflects organization as much as it does numbers.

But with the exception of the less potent local women's political caucus there are no parallels to the Gertrude Stein club despite its obvious success.

The potential is there, but first one has to change one's attitude about party politics. It is not a matter of finding in the Democratic Party a proper theology but rather a proper battlefield. Those who really want to change things have got to start coming down out of the hills to where the fighting is going on. The Democratic Party is such a place.

A NEW DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

[About a year ago, I attempted to describe what a new Democratic politics might look like. Since it fits in with the subject of the previous article, I thought I would offer it again, as they say in show business, "live on tape" -- S.S.]

The only way to deal with the new right — and it's alive in both parties, is to have some new Democrats as well. These new Democrats can't be rehashed liberals — the word ought to be banished from the Democratic vocabulary for at least two presidential terms. They can't be socialists; the Democrats have thoroughly discredited socialism by introducing over the past few decades every one of its worst aspects while providing few of its benefits. They can be radical, in the sense of returning to the roots, but those roots are not in European socialism nor are they as convenient chronologically as the New Deal. They are to be found further back and on this side of the Atlantic — in a judicious blend of Jeffersonianism, populism, progressivism, libertarianism and what Norman Mailer calls "radical conservatism."

Liberalism and socialism suffer from many of the same defects. They both tend to favor order at the expense of freedom. They both tend towards centralism, while the historical roots of American thought are decentralist and anti-authoritarian. And in their effort to produce economic salvation, they both tend to create psychological deprivation. The American dream is not to make the right choice between economic and personal justice, it's not to choose between independence and equality but to have it all. Both the right and the left in this country tend to promote only a part of the dream; a new Democratic politics, I would submit, should try to put the parts together again. Here, for starters, are some random notes on how it might be done:

- A new Democratic politics requires the reestablishment of a base among the people rather than, as has been increasingly the case, among those who "represent them." If the party has to make a choice it should go for the union members rather than for the unions. It worked for Reagan and it would work for the Democrats. The Democratic Party has failed to understand the depth of institutional alienation in this country. Although the Republicans are as institutionally bound as the Democrats, they have been far more effective in feigning interest in the American as an individual. The Democratic rhetoric is constantly shoving institutions on top of people — HUD, the UAW, the city machines — and people are mad at all of them.

THE MYTH OF FEDERAL SUPERIORITY....

- A new Democratic politics requires affirmative action in government decentralization. The Republicans have gotten away with simply calling for less government because the Democrats have promoted the absurd premise that only the central government can solve our problems. In fact, much of the Republican effort is not aimed at doing away with government but with doing away with programs, but because the Democrats have resisted decentralizing these programs this distinction has been obscured.

The Democrats should forget that Richard Nixon started revenue sharing and make bigger and better revenue sharing a major part of its program. The Republicans have played a symbolic game with revenue sharing; let the Democrats make it real. If the Republicans want to decentralize a federal function to the governor's level, the Democrats should demand it be placed at the neighborhood or township level.

That there are risks in decentralization is obvious. That there are important federal functions that must remain centralized — such as the guarantee of constitutional rights — is also obvious. But because Washington must protect the rights of minorities does not mean that Washington must also decide when, how and with what surface material a village in Nebraska shall build its federally-funded playground.

Part of the peculiar mythology of the Democratic

Party is that decentralization is un-Democratic. This, no doubt, stems from the abuse of states' rights as a tool for discrimination. But at some point one has to distinguish between inherent evil and wrongful application; the Democrats have failed to do so.

If you go back to the earliest days of the republic, you find a different story about states rights. Within a relatively few years of the revolution the United States had ended most property standards for suffrage, eliminated the legal status of women as chattel, ended slavery outside the south, and rejected primogeniture, all as the result of state rather than federal action. Even in today's conflicts, the effect of decentralized power is not as dangerous as we sometimes think. True, the Burger court has decentralized the definition of pornography — but would you really prefer that every community have to accept the Burger court's own definition? Where would homosexuals be if their only legal recourse was a federal human rights law? Would they prefer that San Francisco and Washington be governed by Congress's current inclinations on the subject? Would women prefer to rely solely on passage of the ERA? Even in human rights, the federal government is not inherently superior to the sum of its parts.

TIME TO END AN AFFAIR....

- A new Democratic politics requires that the party get out of bed with banks, multinational corporations, monopolies, oligarchies, conglomerates, Washington legal hitmen and economic hustlers of all stripes. The Republican Party may be married to big business but the Democratic Party is its mistress. It has never confessed this to its constituents but they figured it out anyway. It has to stop fooling around if there is to be any hope of revival. It can not go on talking economic justice on the one hand while, on the other, trying to beat the Republicans to the deal. Both parties hardly mentioned multinationals during the campaign. When Richard Allen, Reagan's foreign policy advisor, got into trouble it was because of alleged improprieties rather than for the astounding fact that the man guiding Reagan on foreign policy matters was representing Datsun even as Reagan was successfully asking workers in Detroit for their votes. The failure of the Democrats to even tweak Reagan on this was culpable nonfeasance of the first water.

- A new Democratic politics requires that the party declare war on high interest rates. Here again a conspiracy of silence has prevailed among the two parties. Aside from a few lip service complaints, the obvious inflationary role of interest rates has been studiously ignored by the Democrats. On this issue, the Democrats should become born-again Christians; the Bible is far more clear on the question of usury than it is, say, on gun control, abortion or defense budgets. It is absurd that no major Democrat has made the incredible manipulation of interest rates a prime issue.

- A new Democratic politics requires that the party make clear the difference between free enterprise and an economic orgy. Until politicians make the distinction the American voters won't.

Voters need to know what has happened to their classic economic model. They need to know that the corporations that now claim rights equal to that of an individual once had to convince the state government that their purposes were in the public interest and necessity before even receiving a charter. They need to understand the hypocrisy involved in megacorporations assuming the mantle of a primitive and virtually extinct form of capitalism. They should be told about the significantly greater job-producing capacity of small rather than large business. They should be taught the diseconomies of scale — including the cost of bailing out such economic dinosaurs as Chrysler and Lockheed. They should learn about the inflationary potential of monopolized business, the job-destroying potential of high tech multi-national industry and the environmental indifference — all factors with which Adam Smith didn't contend.

The Democratic Party, which has been grievously

silent about such matters, should take the position that it wants to free enterprise rather than subsidize monopolies.

The Democratic Party's new politics also requires alternatives to the growing monopolization of the economy. One such alternative would be an emphasis on the cooperatives as options to traditional economic units.

Cooperatives are an attractive alternative to capitalistic failure since they can accomplish many of socialism's goals without its liabilities. Further, they have a healthy red-blooded American provenance that makes them more politically tasteful. Interestingly, there has been some movement in this direction, such as the new national cooperative bank, but the Democrats have been awful quiet about it.

Along with cooperativism, we need to put an end to the acceptance of what Paul Soglin calls "lemon socialism" — the idea that it is all right for the government to get into private business as long as there's no money to be made out of it. Once you accept the idea of public enterprise — the opportunities for economic change mount geometrically.

We already have some successful examples of public enterprise in this country, such as the few communities that own their own utilities, but the idea is in its infancy. Acceptance of a decentralized public enterprise ethos would permit, for example, a city government to buy and then lease redevelopment land rather than merely collect the taxes on it. It would encourage the formation of state and local banks to fund housing programs out of profits made from middle and upper income mortgages. It would allow government to get something in return for its subsidies. It would give local governments a piece of the equity in housing programs they fund. It would give the government stock shares in businesses it subsidized or bailed out. We would never have to reach an ultimate confrontation between monopoly capitalism and monopoly socialism; rather we would develop a case by case economy. The only thing stopping us from moving in this direction and enjoying its obvious benefits is our fear of violating an economic theory that no longer has any practical meaning.

- A new Democratic politics would stress ways to reduce confrontation in the society. It would reject the adversary society created by such institutions such as legal profession and would develop means for people to resolve disputes rather than win or lose them.

- A new Democratic politics would decentralize justice. Like everything else in our society, prosecution and adjudication has been removed from our communities. It must be returned.

America, among western countries, is one of the most punitive and least effective in dealing with crime. The Republican theory of more of the same should be rejected. The Democratic Party should stress the fact that crimes are committed against a community and that the community must be the focus of law enforcement. Failure to recognize the key role of communities in crime prevention and the subsidiary nature of professional law enforcement is a major reason for our failure to deal effectively with the problem. We need to greatly strengthen fledgling neighborhood justice systems — with the emphasis on prevention rather than punishment and on restitution rather than retribution — and we need to stop playing catch-up in the Republican game of the more cops the better.

- A new Democratic politics must continue to stress proper care and feeding of the environment, with the greatest emphasis on the avoidance of irreparable damage. Whether immediately popular or not, the party must take a stand against playing Russian roulette with eternity.

- A new Democratic politics requires a foreign policy that finally recognizes the independence of the rest of the nations of the world. Our intrusive, arrogant meddling in extra-territorial politics has brought us little but grief. It is morally indefensible, politically unproductive and economically risky. Only the fact that the Russians have been even more heavy-handed has saved us from complete disaster.

- A new Democratic politics requires a military policy that is based on the needs of the military rather than of the military-industrial complex. One of the best-kept secrets of American politics is that the huge sums taxpayers are providing for the "defense budget" has

surprisingly little to do with defense. It is a make-work program for defense contractors. You don't even have to raise the moral issue: from a military point of view it doesn't make sense. The essence of any military force is the professionalism and skill of its personnel. There are strong indications that this has seriously declined despite the ever-growing number of toys the military has to play with. The Democrats could get a lot more mileage for a lot less cost out of the defense issue, by emphasizing real preparedness and skill rather than the traditional predilection for bigger and better weaponry.

- A new Democratic politics should make the Democratic Party the party of neighborhoods, the party of communities. Local Democrats should be at the front of every battle for neighborhood government, for more participation by citizens in local decisions, against the rape of communities by developers and speculators and city governments. Because Democrats control so many city halls, there has been a tendency for local Democratic parties to lay low on such issues. Over the long run, however, the people will turn on the Democratic city machines just as they have turned on the Democratic federal machine. One way to prevent this is for local Democrats to start representing the interest of the people rather than those of their mayors.

- Though the Democratic Party has long held itself out as the party of "full employment" it has not, in recent years, been particularly effective in this role. CETA, for example, has been a shambles. Misbegotten jobs programs betray the perfectly worthy role of public job creation. A new Democratic policy requires that Democrats be at least as concerned with the quality of jobs programs as any of their GOP critics.

There is plenty of work than needs to be done. The physical infrastructure of our old cities needs to be rebuilt, our railroad system is in a sorry state, the effects of decades of environmental unconcern need to be ameliorated, neighborhoods need help overcoming years of neglect. There is no justification for wasting public jobs.

Further, many of the policies I've outlined are actually job production programs as well. A shift from wasteful military spending towards economically regenerative domestic programs would create jobs. A shift away from political priority to megacorporations towards smaller businesses would produce jobs. A cap on interest rates would greatly help the housing industry — and produce jobs.

It is important that the government recognize the effect of its policies on employment. Federal urban redevelopment, for example, has tended to hurt less skilled employment. One person's progress may be another's layoff.

Within its own structure, the government has tacitly accepted an anti-jobs policy. Both federal and local governments have allowed grade creep and reorganizations to destroy much of government's traditional capacity as a job provider. One \$60,000-a-year federal bureaucrat is taking the job of three \$20,000-a-year lower-level civil servants. Government, in part, has become a jobs program for the college educated. This tendency must be reversed.

- Finally, a new Democratic politics should rethink issues of human rights. The party can not retreat from a commitment to these rights, but it should stop raising strategies to the status of rights. Bussing, for example, was a strategy, not a right. It was effective neither educationally nor politically. In fact, because blacks and liberal Democrats refused to look pragmatically at the results of bussing, only the new right really benefitted from it.

On other issues, we need, as the general told his troops, to "elevate the guns a little lower." Abortion is one of these issues. It involves ultimately irresolvable conflicts in values; both sides have morally sound positions. You can not handle this sort of issue as you would the ERA or segregation. High visibility advocacy politics risks the sort of backlash that we are currently observing. What's needed here is more subtle and sensitive politics.

In the field of civil rights, the trend of recent years has been to link these issues with the same sort of regulatory, punitive approach of government that people are rebelling against in every area. Blacks tend to see resistance to bussing and affirmative action as being racist, but if they would just ask, their local OSHA

inspector what sort of reception he's getting, they would see the problem is not theirs alone.

To cling to government regulations as the prime strategy for racial justice seems politically naïve at best. Even if the laws stay on the books, enforcement will almost certainly wither over the next few years.

In fact, no matter what minorities do, the outlook is pretty gloomy. But a few changes in approach might help. One would be to find ways the government could be used as a carrot rather than always as a stick. Another would be for minorities and women to reexamine their reluctance to form meaningful coalitions with other groups. The activist individualism of the seventies didn't work so well in its prime; in the next few years it will be futile.

There should also be more attention paid to some sources of the problem that have been largely ignored. One of these is the demographic gerrymandering of institutions such as the US Congress. Ineffective as it may be over the short run, we should at least begin raising the issue of how we can have legislative bodies that somewhat represent the composition of the country. We need not only the right to vote but the right to have someone to vote for.

It might also help if there were a rhetorical shift. One of the components of the so-called "backlash" is a feeling on the part of many Americans not of a minority that they, like Roger Dangerfield, "don't get no respect."

Because of the real problems and insecurities of minorities and women, these groups have tended to underrate the problems and insecurities of those with whom they find political conflict.

But while losing many of the real battles, minorities and women have tended to have the upper hand in the rhetorical war. The ground rules, decided in no small part by the media, have been that it is all right for blacks to make hyperbolic statements about whites but not vice versa. Women can stereotype men but men can't stereotype women. It is acceptable to lampoon a born-again Christian but not a Zionist.

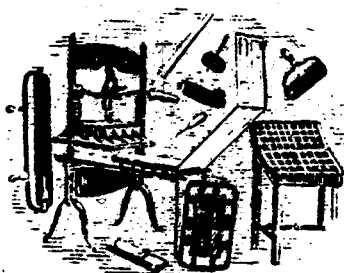
The political effects of this dynamic have not been adequately examined, but I think there is ample evidence that they are there. A new Democratic policy on human rights needs a considerable emphasis on human respect — even for those one finds politically objectionable. We need to question the assumption that one's political, religious or social views define one's worth as an individual. And the burden for this falls most heavily on those who feel strongly the need to end invidious discrimination.

§

Okay, that's enough to get started on. If you don't like it make your own damn list. I don't care. But remember: you were led into this ambush by the crummiest bunch of Democratic leaders of modern times. They lost the election and now you can lose them. Just go out and start acting like Democrats again.

THE PRESS

Bob Alperin



At the micro-reporting level the media gave casual Richard Allen observers two conclusions: federal employees "take" leave when they want it; Allen sacrificed by taking leave from his high-salaried post. Under a headline "Allen Taking Leave..." the *Post's* first sentence said "Allen announced... he is taking administrative leave." Fifteen column inches later he requested it. Then came two more references to his decision. Finally, accuracy: he asks the President to "grant" leave.

Most media neglected to explain "administrative leave." It's leave with pay. Having it granted for more than a few hours (for blood donors, voters, employee organization representatives) is rare.

Post page 1 headline: "8 African Nations Agree on Namibia." The first sentence assured you they accepted "most elements" of the U.S.-led plan. But 14 paragraphs later it's revealed that the 8 made "two significant deviations" from the proposal. Two days later a tiny story (A35) reported Angola's denial that the western plan was accepted in principle. The 8 made counterproposals.

Post reporters in varying locations pieced together a story on the sale of enriched uranium to South Africa by a French firm partly owned by the French government. It would be nice to see follow-up reporting on how, if at all, such a sale affects France's position in its former black African colonies. The larger story, unreported in the mass media, is the large French presence in those lands. More of her citizens live there now than before independence.

The same day as its uranium scoop, the *Post* ignored South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha's meeting with 600 top business leaders. All 19 speakers (the powers of industry and finance and some black businessmen) urged liberalization of the segregation laws, particularly with respect to education, housing, and the free movement of labor. (Gold and diamond magnate Harry Oppenheimer gave copies of his speech to the press. For a previous *Post* snub of his views see *Gazette*, Summer, '81). In the Baltimore *Sun's* wire service account, Botha stressed his devotion to separate development and denied heading "toward a unitary state for all."

The *Sun* ignored Botha's new industrial decentralization plan and his assertions that certain reforms would be implemented. The plan is to provide economic incentives to boost eight "deconcentration points" and 47 industrial development points (some in the black homelands). Pending details, industry isn't clear if the plan is profitable. Botha also claimed acceptance in principle of a report recommending sweeping changes in housing policy for urban blacks, and future scrapping of limits on the number of blacks who can be employed in urban-based industries. (While many past reform promises weren't initiated, the pattern of raised expectation and disappointment is important in itself.)

Remember the mercenaries who failed to overthrow the Seychelles government and hijacked a

plane back to South Africa? The *Sun* edged *Post* coverage of South Africa's release of 39 of the 44 hijackers by having a South African law professor place developments in context. The \$10,000 bail was rather large by their standards. A plea bargaining deal? The practice was "nonexistent" there.

The media reported that U.S. officials were surprised at the mass release, but didn't tell why. The case provided an opportunity to contrast a tough South African stand towards those plotting to overthrow a foreign state with the harboring of anti-South African groups by some neighboring African states. If further indictments are not forthcoming, South Africa's denials of involvement will ring hollow to many.

In contrast to endless stories of strikes and shortages in Poland, the *Boston Globe* reported a thriving

WEATHER REPORT

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ing industry: heroin. It's the most available, cheapest drug available.

Policy-makers who hate other countries, or have prejudices about the potential ability of particular peoples, are especially vulnerable to manipulation by third powers. Rulers in trouble may invent or exaggerate acts by U.S.-detested states to trigger a U.S.-led bailout.

When the Saharan rebels shot down 2 Moroccan planes, King Hassan said "No state in the region, even less the Polisario, has African technicians, and we stress the word African, capable of employing such arms judiciously and in an effective manner." The *Post* used the same AP story as the *Arkansas Gazette* and *Miami Herald* but deleted Hassan's "African" comments. The Moroccan military said only Cubans or East Germans could have fired missiles so effectively but a fine *Post* story three weeks cited military experts as thinking the Polisario could be trained to do it. Morocco, which seeks U.S. arms, claimed the rebel's weapons were upgraded significantly, but reporters found no evidence of such weapons, or of the T54 tanks the Moroccans claimed to have destroyed.

If U.S. leaders share Hassan's depreciating view of African potential, they could accept as plausible greater involvement of outside forces in many African situations than would be justified by the facts.

In a story the media generally ignored, the *Post* gave many details of the World Zionist Organization's new West Bank settlement plan with its goals of 100,000 settlers in 4 years and a million in 30 years. The excellent *Post* article noted WZO plans had always been approved by the government, but that these differed from recent government statements. But why did it not print, as the *Jerusalem Post* did, the comments of WZO settlement depart-

ment co-chairman Matityahu Drobles who stated that the needs of Arabs in the area weren't considered. It was "a plan for Jews," he didn't "care if the Arabs accept it or not."

A Reuters dispatch in the *Egyptian Gazette* reported a 60 page report to the UN Conference on Trade and Development which said continuation of Israeli land, water and other policies would produce the eventual replacement of the Arab population with an Israeli one.

The AP provided both the *Post* and *Sun* news of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's \$200,000 fine against Cincinnati Gas & Electric. Why the fine: "Sloppy quality assurance" (*Post*); "false... documents, harassment and intimidation of quality control personnel... failure to implement an adequate quality-assurance program" (*Sun*). (For past *Post* omissions on nuclear matters see the November *Gazette*.)

Both the media and Democratic politicians seem to be ignoring the effects of Reagan budget cuts on law enforcement. The *Miami Herald* did a good job of reporting the overall picture and relating it to the local scene. The *Post* provided some intriguing examples—a major drug offender went free in Florida because Drug Enforcement Administration (New York) didn't have funds to fly its agent down to make an identification. It reported 12 DEA task forces would be shut down, including one in Washington, but gave no elaboration as to the impact of the cuts.

How the *Post* and the Atlantic City *Press* covered the Community for Creative Non-Violence's Thanksgiving Day activities provided vivid contrast. In the *Post* a photo on the Metro front page had a caption about a homeless man accepting

turkey. The CCNV was one of many mentioned in a story about the "unlucky" being fed. The *Press* front-paged the story, the photo (White House in the background) was captioned "Protestors..." The story focused on CCNV's political statement against cuts in welfare programs and quoted organizer Mitch Snyder. Its headline: "'Campers' Protest Cuts." The *Post* ran a front-page photo that day: Poles pressing up to the meat counter.

That "unlucky" is the *Post* headline bothers me. Are hunger and large scale unemployment really matters of luck and unrelated to the workings of social systems and the decisions of those commanding their resources?

Different emphasis: 183 draft evaders would receive warnings (*Post*) vs 23% fail to register (*Miami Herald*). The *Post* reported 800,000 didn't sign up but gave no percentage. In a story on the effects of cuts in the school lunch program the *Post* again eschewed per cent in reporting reduced participation. The *Sun* noted both an 11% drop in meal-takers and the administration's expectation that new eligibility rules would eliminate more children, particularly among takers of reduced price or free meals.

Seemingly significant stories sometimes pass unnoticed, hidden in other stories. Hobart Rowen's fine *Post* piece on a likely shift in a top State Department job quoted a Haig critic on the secretary's allegedly volatile emotional swings: he's "up one day, down the next," and sometimes didn't seem to know "his own mind." Citing a single source for such an observation is questionable. If that impression is widespread, it's a story worth more than a ships-in-the-night notice. If not, it seems unfair to Haig.

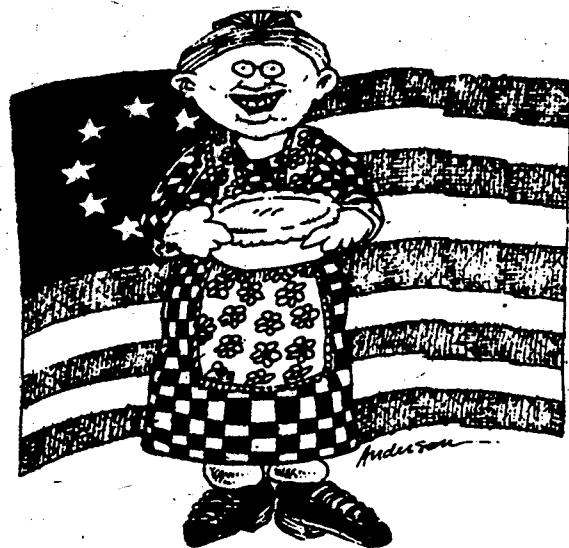
A *Chicago Sun-Times* article on the Saudi peace plan had passing mention of two potentially big stories: (1) The plan's ideas were "inspired" by U.S. envoy Habib last summer. If true, Israeli doubts of U.S. support for Camp David would seem valid. (2) The Soviet airline Aeroflot opened offices in the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Is it a prelude to diplomatic relations and more?

The *Post*'s "The War Game" series kept its promise to examine the "origin and consequences" of Europe's security debate, and to focus on US-European relations. Similar enlightenment on what seems a prior question, the relative military capabilities of the two blocs, would be welcome. How do the US and USSR arrive at such different figures on weapons available to each side? Interspersed in several articles after Reagan's arms reduction speech were accounts of how the Soviet count differs from the administration's. Among differences they include missiles launched from submarines and the missiles of U.S. allies.

The *Miami Herald* did a massive 8-part series on drug enforcement. Computer analysis followed interviews in 4 countries and studies of court files, arrest data, and confidential DEA evaluations. Happily, for those short on time or intimidated by very long stories, the *Herald* provided a summary. Major findings: DEA's most famed cases have no lasting impact on the major cities' drug supply, the agency has serious management problems which harm efficiency and even jeopardize major investigations; civil service rules and cronyism harm the self-discipline system; DEA agents overseas are few in number with limited roles; drug defendants receive low bail and light sentences (in South Florida, over half those convicted in the last 3 years received two years or less in jail).

Most media have publicized White House and State Department threats to use military force in Central America. The *Miami Herald* reported strong Defense Department opposition to such action. Secretary Weinberger was said to be advising that it wouldn't work and likely would be counter-productive.

With budget cuts increasingly eroding the possibility of adequate upkeep of public facilities, Pat Choate's two part *Sun* series, "American in Ruins" (he's co-author of a book of the same name), seemed particularly chilling. Drawing on statistics on available water treatment facilities, decaying bridges, interstate highways, rails and roadbeds, he argues that probably three-quarters of all commu-



Apple Pie

An English family in Great Yarmouth has finally found out why their TV kept mysteriously changing channels. It turned out that their pet parrot had learned to imitate the ultra sonic signal of the remote TV control unit.

The government has a message for the inhabitants of America ten thousand years from now, but it doesn't know how to say it. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is trying to devise a warning -- one that won't seem Greek to future generations -- explaining that the radioactive waste we're dumping today will still be deadly. The job has fallen to University of Indiana language expert Thomas Sebeok, who says today's words probably won't mean much to the Americans of 11,982. So he's working on a communications mix, including words, pictures, cartoons and even stick figures to mark toxic wastes.

The Liner *Pacific Princess*, better known to TV fans as "The Love Boat" has cockroaches. According to government inspectors, the *Pacific Princess* scored only 52 out of a hundred points on its last health inspection. Eight-five points are needed to pass. More than a dozen unsanitary conditions were noted, including cockroaches in the galley, improperly washed dishes and a cook who handled poached eggs with his bare hands.

The elephants at the Portland, Oregon, zoo are producing "zoodoo," which has become one of the city's most popular fertilizers. A single elephant can produce up to five hundred pounds of zoodoo a day, according to senior elephant keeper Roger Henneous. But that's still not enough to keep up with demand. He says, "People often stand in line, waiting patiently for the elephants to manufacture it."

Here are some final Christmas stories to wrap up the season. A Santa Claus school in California told this year's crew to cut down on the "Ho, ho, hos" because they scare little kids. The Santas were also advised not to wear trousers with center zippers because too many kids try to unzip Santa's pants. Meanwhile, London police arrested two Santas, one 24 and the other 64, who got into a fistfight over bellringing rights at a downtown street corner. After hearing an officer tell the court how they ripped each other's costumes to shreds, a judge ordered the two to stand trial for disturbing the peace and lectured them for "disillusioning" passing children.

nities in the U.S. are unable to support modernized development unless they make major new investments in public works. He cites two major causes of the decline: massive long-term underinvestment (put off to satisfy current voter demands?), and equally massive waste and fraud.

In a related news item, the *Los Angeles Times* warned that of 9,000 private dams in high-hazard locations, almost 3,000 are unsafe, posing threats to downstream life and property. The administration ruled out federal funds to help fix the dams, or to strengthen state inspection programs.

Former British Secretary David Owen, writing in the Manchester *Guardian*, noted that both NATO and the Warsaw Pact "allow in their planning for first-use of battlefield nuclear weapons," but some Soviet generals and strategies publicly question this strategy. Why hasn't this been publicized over here?

A virulent *Post* editorial excoriated the U.S.

Catholic Bishops for its statement on El Salvador. Preceding it was a news account of the bishops' meeting. In limited space it provided accounts of the El Salvador debate and the "Health and Healing" pastoral letter. But the reporter's first sentence had a major factual error, one repeated in the editorial. It said they urged "all countries, but the United States in particular" to stop sending arms. But the Bishops' statement opposed "any military assistance that Cuba or the Soviet Union may provide directly or indirectly to the contending forces in that region." It was hardly a "one-sided position" (*Post* editorial).

Much of the *Post* editorial was taken with arguing that the bishops failed to meet with certain visiting Salvadorean bishops. (Letters-to-the-editor continued that dispute.) The inference was that the bishops acted with insufficient information. Yet, a reading of their statement makes clear the intellectual and informational backgrounds of their views.

While the news story noted the bishops were "at odds" with Reagan's foreign policy, it omitted the fundamental difference in their analysis. They noted that some argue the US-Soviet competition is the dominant reality in Central America. In the bishops' view: "The dominant challenge is the internal conditions of poverty and the denial of basic human rights which characterize many of these societies." The *Post* editorial expressed no view on this basic part of their analysis. Whatever were the editorial writer's sources about the bishops' views, it seems unlikely that the actual document was a source.

Five days before the bishops' statement, the *Boston Globe*, unlike the *Post*, ran a brief UPI story on the Salvadorean army's largest search-and-destroy operation of the year. The San Salvador Archdiocese's human rights group charged that the troops massacred 78 civilians (including 45 young children), and that most of the 132 subversives the government claimed to have killed were families fleeing the fighting.

CHARLES MCDOWELL

What to do about whathisname

There is something we could do about that sinister colonel who runs Libya and frazzles the United States. We could decide what his name is.

Time magazine says it's Gaddafi.

Newsweek says it's Kaddafi.

U.S. News and World Report says it's Qadhafi.

The Associated Press and United Press International have negotiated an agreement. It's Khadafy.

The New York Times and the Washington Post, each developing its policy and independently, have come together. It's Qaddafi.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch anticipated the problem years ago and counseled with Libyan diplomats before they became so obnoxious. It's Quathafi.

The Los Angeles Times and the Baltimore Sun independently consulted their foreign bureaus and Arabic scholars. It's Kadafi.

The Times of London, which is a worldwide authority in matters of Arabic-to-English transliteration, says its Gaddafi.

How can we make it clear that this man is an international villain if we can't settle on who he is? Oh, people get the drift of it phonetically, but the image is fuzzy and distracting.

He is erratic, we say. Shifty. Irrational. And then our thoughtful articles explaining the menace of such a force in the world, we call him by half-a-dozen odd names, take the edge off his identity and preoccupy the readers with the press' erratic, shifty, even irrational approach to the leader of Libya. This preoccupation is mainly subconscious perhaps, but it still plays tricks with plausibility and apprehension.

Think of Hitler (an exaggeration, I trust, of the Libyan's nefarious potential). At least we could be apprehensive of him in a single-minded, serious way. He didn't come at us as a diffused Hittler, Khitler, Ghitlor, Hiddler, Hootler. The temptation to silliness in making up variations also makes my point, such as it is.

What we are dealing with in the problem of Khadafy, Quathafi, Gaddafi, Quadhafi, etc., is the problem of rendering an Arabic name in English. Arabic has 29 characters rather than the 26 letters in our alphabet, and some of the Arabic possibilities offer sounds we can't quite match.

So transliterating is a phonetic exercise. United Press International took the problem of Libyan president to Sister Ann Coffey, an Islamic historian and Arabic linguist at Georgetown University. She sounded it out and produced Qaddafi.

I have not come across a print publication that uses that one, not even UPI.

Many publications have their own experts and have great faith in them. Once the Washington Post

got a consensus spelling from its experts two or three years ago, an editor on the foreign desk explained, the paper felt an obligation to "be consistent." Newsweek, for another example, researched the problem, settled on a style and sticks to it. So it's Qaddafi in the *Post* and Kaddafi in Newsweek, independent consistencies within the same corporation.

Maybe all this does not worry most people as much as it worries me. And I will admit that I go to sleep many nights without thinking about it more than five minutes.

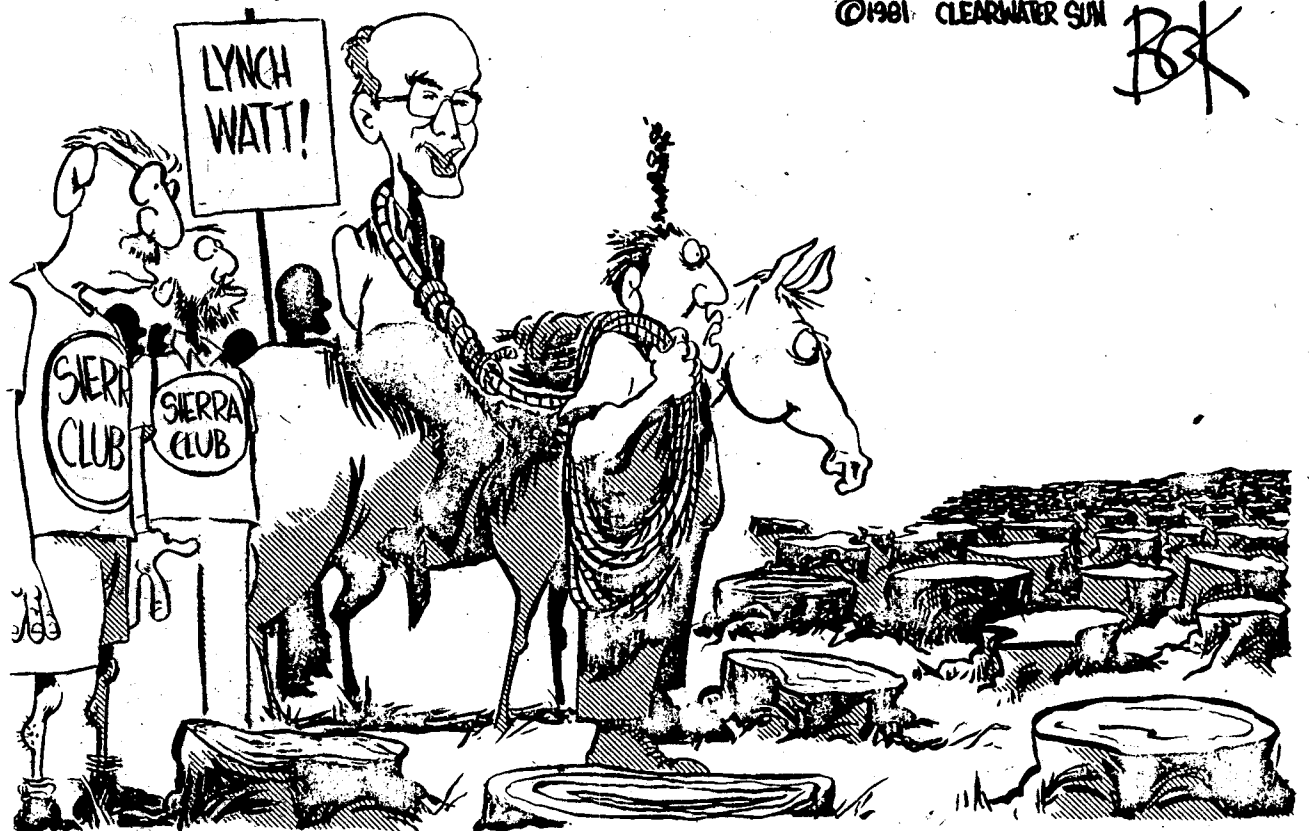
But somehow I would feel better, conceivably more secure, if the United States could agree on how to spell the name of troublemaker whom we are constantly told is an enemy of major stature. President Reagan could go on television and give us the chosen name on a blackboard, but that might seem silly. And the independent press would not accept it, anyway.

Maybe we could get together voluntarily. The AP-UPI version—Khadafy—goes to most newspapers and might be the best bet. But I am told that dozens of the proudest papers comb their columns to be sure no Khadafy has got through and he is consistently rendered as Qaddafi, Kaddafi, Gaddafi, Qadhafi of whatever they have been stuck with in the past.

I asked an international news authority on our paper how she justified all the effort that must be expended, day after day, week after week, in changing news services' assorted versions to our apparently unique Quathafi. She said it was a cinch with the new computer system, and I should worry about something else.

So I didn't mention his first name, which is Muammar, Moammar, Moammer or Moamer, among other rigidly consistent versions of journalistic pride. I have quite using his name. I just call him that fanatic in Libya.

Richmond Times-Dispatch



CHUCK STONE

Chuck Stone was recently in Northern Ireland. Here is a brief excerpt from his five-part series on his visit:

For those who believe, no explanation is necessary. For those who don't believe, no explanation is possible.

That aphorism is arched on the side of a two-story building in the Catholic Ardoyne area above the painting of a bleeding, naked, bearded man on his hands and knees.

The aphorism can be applied to all sides in Northern Ireland's religious fratricide.

Believers reject rational explanations. Skeptics will not welcome dialogue.

In this sorrowful land drenched with the blood of true believers and irrigated by the tears of their victims, green valleys and hills have been fertilized with myths as numerous as the depth of their hatreds and gobbled up by an unquestioning press.

Myth No. 1: The IRA is responsible for most, if not all, of the country's terrorism.

The respected Association for Legal Justice compiled a breakdown of the 2,092 deaths resulting from communal war as of May 1981.

Of the 2,092 communal war deaths, the association listed 1,052 murders and assassinations by the outlawed nationalist groups (the IRA, or its more radical offshoot, the Irish National Liberation Army).

Outlawed loyalist groups (the Ulster Freedom Fighters or Ulster Volunteer Force) have been assigned responsibility for 630 murders and assassinations.

"The only way to deal with terrorists is to terrorize the terrorists," Andy Tyrie, supreme commander of the Ulster Defense Association, told this reporter in his headquarters in the East Belfast Protestant heartland on Newtonards Road.

During the first seven days of this reporter's stay in Northern Ireland, the IRA triggered 10 separate bombings in five cities (including London, where a soldier and a civilian were killed). Protestant loyalists bombed a Catholic church, murdered three Catholics (including a Belfast city councilman and a 68-year-old woman in her upstairs bedroom) and attempted a late-night killing.

While terrorism is a two-edged religious sword, some well-informed observers insist a third edge of the sword has been honed by British soldiers and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, or police force.

Myth No. 2: The IRA "ordered" the prisoners in Long Kesh (antiseptically renamed "the Maze" by the British) to go on the hunger strike.

"We were opposed to the hunger strike," an intimate of IRA officials told this reporter. "One of the highest-ranking IRA officials went to Long Kesh and met with Bobby Sands and told him, 'You can't win this one. The British government is not going to give in. You'll only die.' But Bobby was told, 'If you decided to go through with it, we'll support whatever you do.' The hunger strike had not been planned as an organized tactic. Once it got started, it developed a life force all its own."

Myth No. 3: The IRA is linked to other international terrorist groups such as the Palestine Liberation Organization and supported by Libyan dictator Col. Moammar Khadafy.

British intelligence document No. 37 had refuted the myth, despite an attempt to authenticate it on a recent "60 Minutes" broadcast.

The refutation of a widely reported myth by an official British document that could thoroughly discredit the IRA is only one of the contradictions in a country as stubbornly divided as it is breathtakingly beautiful.

Its countryside of lush greenery sprawls peacefully in monastic silence as nearby cities reverberate almost nightly with terrifying explosions of bombs, stuttering machine guns and pistol cracks.

The grimy walls of decaying buildings in West Belfast's seamy Catholic slums are brightened by colorful tableaux of Christ-like figures and counterpointed by revolutionary slogans promising the RUC and British soldiers "a freedom fighter's bullet," or a "Russian-imported RPG7 can opener."

Hunger strikers determined to unite with Ireland ended up further polarizing Northern Ireland into two armed camps of bitterness.

Mistrust between Catholics and Protestants worsens, yet the blue-eyed, hazel-haired woman clerk smilingly insisted that the black journalist who had no English currency take his groceries and pay whenever he was able to convert his dollars.

[Philadelphia Daily News]

OWN YOUR OWN CABLE SYSTEM

David McGregor

Cable television in St. Paul, Minnesota, will, by conservative estimates, generate \$30 million in profits for whoever owns the city's 15-year franchise. Normally, St. Paul would sell this franchise to one of several large corporations now running cable systems. In return, the chosen corporation would pay between three and five percent of its profits into the St. Paul city treasury. An alternative arrangement recently adopted by the St. Paul City Council, however, could keep most the \$30 million in profits right in the local economy.

The alternative is community ownership. Although the idea of community-owned cable television is not new, St. Paul, with over 100,000 households as potential subscribers, is the first large city to try it. Now that St. Paul has shown that community-owned cable is possible, groups in Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and several cities are also looking into alternatives to private cable ownership.

Nationally, cable television is adding 250,000 new subscribers a month, with particularly rapid growth in middle and high income urban and suburban areas. Within a year, cable will reach the 30 percent penetration experts say it needs to become a viable mass marketing medium. Profits, then, are a major factor in the push for community control. But community ownership advocates also stress the need for wider access and control of cable programming, as well as public input into how new cable technologies, such as two-way communication, are used.

Community cable advocates cite Atlanta as the mistake they don't want repeated. City officials there thought they had won major concessions when Atlanta Cable promised two state-of-the-art cable trunks, one with 54 channels for homes and another with 41 channels for institutions. The company also promised a studio where community groups could prepare programs, with a full-time staff and budget to assist them. A year and a half later, only 32 of the 54 home channels are operational, while the second institutional system and the community access studio do not exist. Atlanta's mistake: failing to write promises made in the franchise agreement into law.

Atlanta's problems with unfilled promises are not uncommon, and not all of them can be remedied by attempting to negotiate iron-clad contracts. In cities such as San Francisco and New York, cable companies are wiring wealthier and more profitable neighborhoods while dragging their feet in low-income areas. When Boulder, Colorado, attempted to penalize Telecommunications, Inc., for not delivering promised services, the company sued Boulder for \$1 million.

Such are the problems of the cable television "free market." But community ownership of cable has problems as well, notably with specific definitions of what constitutes the community and the nature of the ownership. Private cable companies say that a municipally-owned communications me-

dium like cable may produce First Amendment conflicts. If a city government owns the cable system, what would prevent government censorship, or at the least, programming influenced by political considerations? Moreover, those familiar with the more regressive city-owned utilities and with rural electric and dairy cooperatives know that municipal or cooperative ownership is no guarantee a system will be democratic or innovative.

Community cable advocates respond with proposals for semi-autonomous or independent non-profit cable corporations created by municipal governments. The hope is to keep control local, but as far away from City Hall politics as possible. At the same time, they want a system both technically sophisticated and responsive to its consumers. No one can say for sure, however, how this will work. The city of Davis, California (pop. 40,000), for example, is planning a cable cooperative, but the details of ownership and control have yet to be spelled out.

"We know about housing coops and food coops," says Davis coop cable coordinator David Thompson, who heads the West Coast Office of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank. "But nobody has done a big coop cable system before."

Along with ownership, financing is the major stumbling block for community cable, especially for systems larger than a few thousand subscribers. St. Paul is looking into raising capital through industrial revenue bonds, and the well known investment firm Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith has prepared an analysis of how cities can use their bonding authorities to finance municipal cable systems (contact: Robert W. Simmons, Merrill, Lynch, 1 Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10080, 212/637-7576).

Financing cable cooperatives should be tougher. The Davis project, for example, hangs on an estimated \$5 to \$8 million loan from the National Consumer Cooperative Bank. In the largest cities, cable requires so much investment that some community ownership organizers admit their plans have little chance of becoming reality.

"Our strategy now," says one such organizer, "is to make ourselves such a political presence that city officials will have to include us in the overall deal they make with a private cable operator."

This was similar to the thinking in St. Paul, where cable cooperative organizers had just a few months to prepare a bid competing against experienced and well-heeled private companies. The City Council rejected the cooperative proposal, but strong grassroots organizing (including a pro-cable coop petition with 5,500 signatures) convinced the Council to also reject the private bids and opt for community ownership.

Citizen efforts in St. Paul, as well as in Davis, may produce the models other communities can use to control their airwaves.

Reprinted from 'Self-Reliance,' the newsletter of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

JAZZ NOTES

Blues Alley presents Tito Puente January 19-24, Noel Pointer, Jan 26-31, Ruth Brown Feb 2-7, Betty Carter Feb. 9-14 and Scott Hamilton and Buddy Tate Feb. 16-21. Jon Hendrix comes in Feb. 23. Local jazz artists are feature on Mondays. Showtimes nine and eleven. Reservations: 337-4141.

PIANIST Ron Kramer and bassist Keeter Betts will perform in concert at the second in a series of "Jazz Cabaret Concerts", Sunday, January 17 at 730 pm in the ballroom of the National Press Club, 14th & F NW. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

NEWEST LIST

THE ESSENTIAL EARTHMAN: Henry Mitchell on Gardening. This is not just another book on gardening but the thoughts of an enthusiast who comes to the subject with reverence, passion, humor and a sober knowledge of human frailty. The Essential Earthman believes, for example, "a lawn 17 by 20 feet is just fine, if you think a lawnless life is not worth living *** But I suspect many gardeners would do well to think of something besides grass and the little noisy juggernauts you cut with." This is a collection of many of Mitchell's most popular pieces from the Washington Post. \$12.95

CHESAPEAKE: James A. Michener. This is, of course, the book that was the first work of fiction in ten years to make it to the number one spot in the New York Times's best seller list. But its subject matter gives it even greater appeal to those in the Washington area. A fine novel and a way to learn more about our bay. \$3.95

VITAMIN BIBLE: Earl Mindell. Tells all about vitamins and what they can do for you. Gives facts, sources, toxicity levels and how certain vitamins can help in dealing with various problems. It's interesting to read but also valuable as a reference work. \$3.50

HOW YOU CAN GET THE MOST FROM THE NEW TAX LAW: Tells how you can gain from the provisions of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. In simple, easy to graph language. \$2.95

THE OFFICIAL I HATE CATS BOOK: Ex-cat lover Skip Morrow has concocted, with acid pen, a diabolical collection of feline fantasies -- some of which you may recognize as your own. Others will inspire you to new heights -- or depths. Perfect for the cat-hater you love. \$3.95

BASIC TAP DANCING: Here is a clearly illustrated guide to the art of tap dancing. There are tips for buying the best tap shoes, instructions for basic rhythm drills, explanations of rolls, pickups and dance routines. 175 detailed photos make it perfect as an at-home practice manual. \$3.50

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HOW TO SAVE A LIFE USING CPR: A very important guide that could prove invaluable to you some day. Includes a condensed guide for emergency use and two wallet cards to clip out. \$3.95

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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO AEROBIC DANCING: A personalized fitness program that lets you dance freely in your own style, at your own level. \$2.50

IDEAS FOR KITCHEN STORAGE: Space saving and problem solving ideas for every party of the kitchen. \$3.95

Flotsam & Jetsam

A BOOK LENGTH collection of essays by editor Sam Smith culled from 15 years of the DC Gazette (and a few other places). Topics cover a wide field including, trains, England, music, home computers, football, the humanities, pumping iron, Benjamin Franklin, corruption, ghostwriters, on turn-forty, Martin Luther King and words and meaning. If you have enjoyed the Gazette, we believe you will find this collection appealing, not to mention your friends who may never have become acquainted but might be interested. Only \$2.00.

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AMERICA:Each one of these books is patterned on the Spotters Handbook listed elsewhere. These books contain scorecards for keeping track of your finds, background information and good illustrations. \$1.95 each.

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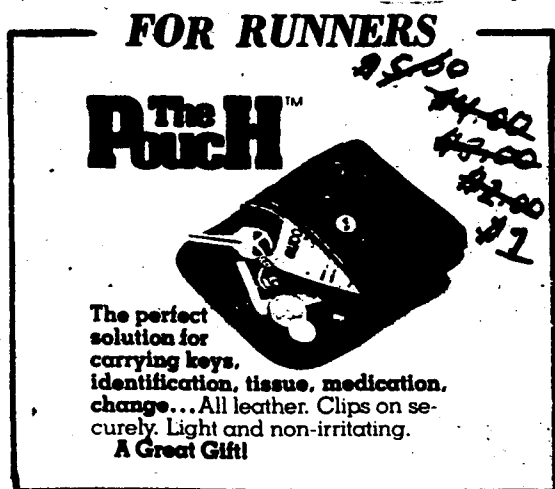
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THE BIG DUMMY'S GUIDE TO CB RADIO: Packed with information for the CBer or potential CBer. Includes a glossary and the ten-code, which you can also use for literary allusions or to amaze your children. \$2.95 REDUCED TO ~~\$1.95~~ \$1



THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MALCOLM X: By Peter Goldman. For this second edition of a major work on one of the most important black leaders of this century, the author, a senior editor of *Newsweek*, has added a substantial epilogue which argues convincingly that three of the five accomplices in Malcolm X's assassination in 1965 are still free, while a fourth is serving a short sentence for an unrelated offense. Meanwhile, despite the efforts of William Kunstler and others, two men who are probably innocent remain in prison "wasted like pawns sacrificed in somebody else's wild chess game," as one of them puts it. ~~\$7.95~~ \$6.00

THE OFFICIAL SCRABBLE PLAYERS DICTIONARY: The book used in tournament play; a dictionary of two to eight letter words that will settle every argument. ~~\$9.75~~ \$7.00

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YOGA: 28-DAY EXERCISE PLAN: With more than 500 photos, this book takes you through all the basic yoga exercises and is arranged so that you advance easily from simpler to more complex movements. By Richard Hittleman. ~~\$5.95~~ \$4.50

A LEGAL GUIDE FOR LESBIAN AND GAY COUPLES: This practical book covers all the important legal aspects of living and working together as a gay/lesbian couple. Straight-forward information explains the legal options and alternatives of child custody and visitation rights, relating to former spouses, foster children and adoption, buying and selling houses, transferring deeds, moving on, dividing property, living-together agreements and planning for death. ~~\$10.95~~ \$8.00

NEW DIRECTIONS IN SOLID WASTE PLANNING: This monograph will alter your thinking about how we handle our garbage. By a former director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Neil Seldman. ~~\$2.50~~ \$1

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HOW TO FIX YOUR BICYCLE: Says Bicycling magazine: "For the aficionado who wants a handy reminder or the 14-year old with his first 'real' bike, we recommend How To Fix Your Bicycle. Simple language and diagrams. ~~\$1.95~~ \$1.00

ARTHUR HOPPE

It was a dark chill evening in the winter of 1989. I was taking a shortcut through an alley in Washington's Embassy Row when a sinister figure loomed up before me.

Could it be... Yes! Carlos the Rascal!

I recognized the international master of disguise immediately for he quickly changed from a short, chunky Appalachian woodcutter to a tall, lean Gimbel's toaster salesman before my eyes.

With a deft movement, he fanned a pack of documents and held them out. "Pick a passport," he said cunningly, "Pick any passport."

"You can't fool me, Carlos," I said. "What brings you and your Phynkian hit squad to Washington?"

"You haven't read the papers?" he demanded. "Your President Muckross has seen fit to double your import duties on variegated gerbils."

I was stunned. Was our president mad? The Rattdom of Phynkia (population 183) produced only two commodities: rocks and variegated gerbils. Its hereditary ruler, the Ratt, had but one source of hard currency: the four gerbils he exported to the U.S. each year. Increasing our tariffs could ruin him.

"Yes," said Carlos, who was now wearing a morning coat and striped trousers, "I personally delivered a diplomatic note to your secretary of state this afternoon. It said that if the tariff was not withdrawn, the Rattdom of Phynkia was prepared to declare (here, he paused for effect) hit squad!"

I shuddered. Once hit squad had been declared, there would be no turning back. The conflict would not be resolved until our hit squad took care of the Ratt or his hit squad... No, the consequences were too awful to contemplate.

A decade earlier, of course, such a confrontation would have meant war. But that was before Colonel Moammar Khadafy won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982.

While other nations, including the U.S., were believed to have employed hit squads in the past, it was Khadafy who showed the world how effectively they could be used. The very rumor that he had dispatched one to this country panicked Washington

far more than the mere threat of a thermonuclear war. Overnight, Khadafy's arid little nation of three million souls became the equal of the American goliath.

The lesson was not lost on other small countries. None was so small that it could not manage to put together a six-man hit squad to take care of foreign affairs and vigilant bodyguard to provide for the national leader's defense.

And thus the small countries could no longer be pushed around by the superpowers. Indeed, one of the mightiest nations on earth was now the Republic of Artgum, whose fanatic hit squad, the Artgum Erasers, was feared in capitals around the globe.

Armies were naturally disbanded. With a hit squad, who needed an army? For as war was once the logical extension of politics, as von Clausewitz suggested, the logical extension of politics was now the hit squad.

So nuclear weapons were anachronisms, battle-ships a joke and tanks an obscenity. With half a trillion dollars saved each year on armaments, peace and prosperity ran amok.

Of course it wasn't all peaches and cream. I glanced hesitantly at Carlos, who was by now a railroad engineer.

"If... If it comes to hit squad," I asked nervously, "what will you do to President Muckross?"

He glared at me with the cold, cruel eyes of a born terrorist. "We will," he said, flipping away his cigarette, "let the air out of his tires."

Poor President Muckross! Poor national leaders everywhere. How careful they were these days to say only nice things about each other. Yet when it came to hit squad, they were the ones to suffer.

To be sure, since time immemorial, it was they, not we, who extended politics beyond the bounds of propriety. It was they, not we, who stirred up emotions and sent us off to fight and die for them.

So that's another good thing you can say for hit squad: **Better them than us.**

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WARD FOUR NEWS

Margorie Webster to Gallaudet

In a surprise move, the U.S. Congress has settled years of controversy over the Marjorie Webster Junior College by passing a law giving the property free to Gallaudet College, a federally chartered college for the deaf.

Marjorie Webster, on Kalmia Rd., was owned by the U.S. Fire Administration for several years; it was purchased for use as a fire academy, but the academy was later built elsewhere. Attempts to sell the property were unsuccessful.

Congressional action was initiated by Senator Robert Packwood, who sponsored an amendment on the Senate floor to a bill providing funds for the Fire Administration.

The executive board of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association voted not to oppose the action. Association president, Mary Alice Branch, noted that the college will have to receive zoning approvals, and that citizens will have an opportunity

to recommend measures to protect the surrounding neighborhood.

DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OPPOSED

Neighbors Inc. has joined other city groups in opposing a bill that would give the mayor the power to permit the transfer of development rights from a lot containing an historic landmark to any other lot in the city. Other groups opposing the measure include the Zoning Commission, the NCPC and Don't Tear It Down.

WARD FOUR NOTES

The Department of Transportation is working on plans to slow down traffic on 16th Street. The Takoma School Rec Centers's Powder Puff Football Team (for girls 13 and under) won the

city championship on November 7. They defeated the Watts Branch Center 6-0.

The Neighbors Inc. Board of Directors would like to issue a directory of neighborhood services. The directory would list shopping facilities, religious institutions, public buildings (e.g., schools, police stations), restaurants, etc. Volunteers are needed for the NI Publicity Committee to work on compiling the information and publishing the directory. If you can help with this project call Bruce Waxman at 328-5415(w) or 882-6236(h).

One of Neighbors Inc.'s services is maintaining a list of service people (plumbers, electricians, carpenters, etc.) recommended by NI members. To make this effective, remember to call the office when you would like to recommend a service person to add to our files. Anyone may ask for referrals. Call 726-3454, Mon.-Fri., 9:30-11:30 am, or call and leave a message on the recorder at any time.

WARD TWO NEWS

Dupont Circle

SAFEGWAY CRITICIZED

The Dupont Circle Commission reports that it has received complaints about the service at the 17th & Corcoran store. Some neighbors complained that, even with expansion of the store, the checkout lines are still too long. One noted, "Check out lines are longer than before the store expanded." Another wrote in response to the commission's request for comments, "Not enough baggers; not enough checkers when needed."

Commissioner Susan Meehan, on behalf of the commission, has requested Safeway hire some young people from the community to bag groceries.

A few shoppers mentioned the fresh fruit and vegetable selection was not good. On the positive side, some people wrote that the shelves were stocked with a greater selection of cans and vegetables.

CHANCERY OPPOSED

The Dupont circle Commission has protested the application of the Embassy of Chad before the Board of Zoning Adjustment to use the premises at 2002 R St. for a chancery. The objections were based on the lack of parking and intrusion of what is basically an office into a residential block.

HISTORIC DISTRICT INFO NEEDED

The Dupont Circle Neighborhood Commission is seeking historic information on the following buildings so it can prepare a case for expansion of the area's historic district. Needed are facts on age, architects, former residents etc. The buildings (or blocks) are as follows:

1623-31 R
1600 block of Que
1822-24 New Hampshire
1733-39 17th
17th & Que, east side
17th north of P, east side
1500 block of R
1500 block of Corcoran
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
15th St. Presbyterian Church.

CIRCLE CULTURE

• The Women's Art Center, 1821 Que St., will be presenting a juried show of women artists through January 23. This year the show was judged by a writer, Eleanor Munro, who was formerly the managing editor of Art News Annual. The WWAC Erotic Art Show opens January 26 from 6-8 pm. There will be 32 pieces from 38 artists. The Pleasure Chest of Georgetown contributed \$100 towards the show's catalog.

• The Local 1734 Art Collective &

Gallery will be showing works of inmates of area prisons beginning in March. The gallery, located at 1734 Conn. Ave. NW, is looking for contributions to help it mount this unique show. (797-9264)

• Gallery 10 LTD will feature works by Walter Kravitz through January 30. The gallery is located at 1519 Conn. Ave. NW.

INTERSECTION PROTESTED

Dupont Circle Commissioner Bill Middleton has informed the Department of Transportation that accidents continue to occur at the intersection of 18th & S NW. The street configuration there lends itself to poor visibility and consequent collisions. A few years ago, DOT responded to neighborhood complaints with a crossing sign and a crosswalk, but the local commission wants to add a stop sign in the northsouth direction.

ANTIQUÉ STORE OPPOSED

The Dupont Circle Neighborhood Commission has apposed the application of CK & GM Associations for a variance to use the first floor at 1314 21st St. as an antique store. The building is zoned for residential use. The commission has also protested the application to convert a house at 2201 N NW into a law and CPA office.

West End

BUS BAN CHALLENGED

The River Inn is challenging the city's ban on buses in parts of Foggy Bottom.

WARD ONE

The Potter's House, the oldest church-run coffee house on the east coast, has been run by the ecumenical Church of the Saviour for the past 21 years.

The Potter's House Art Gallery, featuring a bi-monthly exhibit of work done by local artists, is open Mon-Wed 11-3 PM, and Thurs-Sat 11 AM-11 PM. These are also the times of the coffee house, and visitors are welcome to just browse, eat or look through the gift shop and bookstore.

On the second Sunday of every odd month at 3:00 PM is a play reading. The public is invited to come and participate.

Every Wednesday night the Potter's House Church meets together as a worshipping community at 6:30. Info: 232-5483.

The local neighborhood commission is fighting the move.

ANC NOTES

The Foggy Bottom-West End Neighborhood Commission has voted to oppose George Washington University's plan to convert part of the Milton Hall dormitory into a center for an emergency medical team..... The Zoning Commission has rejected a NC request for hearings on medical clinics in residential zones. The commission fears a growth in the number of clinics will decrease further the number of apartments available.

Southwest

SOUTHWEST MINIBUS SERVICE

The city is planning to begin a minibus route in southwest Washington by the end of the month. The buses would run from Half and M Sts SW to L'Enfant Plaza via the waterfront restaurants.

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Reverse the Charges: A Book Review

by Lenore Pomerance

Did you know that if you buy one of the three most popular telephones from the C&P PhoneCenter Store you only own the outside? And that the insides belong to the company?

Or that there are four companies besides American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) that offer residential and business long distance service at rates lower than C&P (or more accurately AT&T which is the sole owner of C&P)?

A discussion of whether it is cheaper for you to buy your phone or

lease the instrument from the phone company, and at rates and services comparative to long distance competitors of AT&T can be found in a handy book called *Reverse the Charges*, "How To Save \$\$\$ On Your Phone Bill," published by the National Citizens Committee for Broadcasting (NCCB). The Citizens Committee is a Ralph Nader affiliate group working for reform in the telecommunications industry and for public access to the media.

NCCB has published a revised combined edition (published 1981) of two Nader reports, one, *Reverse the Charges*, the second, *How to Talk Back to the Telephone Company: Playing the Telephone Game to Win*.

The first report covers items of personal consumer concern, for example, the pros and cons of owning your phone, taking advantage of reduced rates for long distance, types of equipment you should install, etc.



Roses & Thorns

ROSES TO ALL THE OLD ACTIVISTS who won that big damage award in their case against the DC police and FBI for dirty tricks during the sixties and seventies. We especially appreciated seeing Jerry Wilson called to account once again for breaking the law. Wilson, the worst DC police chief of recent years, was the darling of the Washington Post and the local establishment when he was in power. Finally, the truth is coming out.

THORNS TO THE WASHINGTON POST for its story on the new school board that included the headline: "Newcomers on Board Pledge Quiet." Said John Warren, "Frankly I have resented people making judgements about the board based on its decibel level." Right on, John. One of the reasons, for example, that the city council is more quiet is that it does more of its business behind closed doors. Silence in a democracy is something to be worried about, not to cheer.

THORNS TO MAYORAL CANDIDATES JOHN RAY and BETTY ANN KANE and ROSES TO MAYORAL CANDIDATE JOHN WILSON. The former voted against extension of the speculation tax; the latter voted for it.

ROSES TO THE BOSTON GLOBE for coming to the city's defense editorially on the issue of the Sexual Reform Act. Said the Globe, "The DC debate was a morning of astonishing hypocrisy even by congressional standards."

THORNS TO THE DC SCHOOL SYSTEM for its new Student Progress Plan sheets which have replaced traditional report cards for some grading periods in some schools. The forms are excessively difficult to fill out and to read. If the school system wants to use this sort of data it should either use available national tests that accomplish much the same purpose or come up with a test that can be graded and recorded by a computer. A big F for this one, whatever the system's behavioral objective was.

THORNS TO HOWARD UNIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENT ROGER ESTEP for killing an essay in the Howard magazine that criticized the Reagan administration cutback of programs that aid black students.

THORNS TO JERRY MOORE for proposing a tax on Pac Man, Space Invaders and other electronic arcade games. This is the meanest idea from a Republican since the GOP took out after FDR's dog Fala.

There is a lot to consider in deciding to buy your phone. First, is it more expensive to buy (basic phones cost from \$24 to \$30, designer \$100 and more) than rent (regular rotary dial is 80¢ per month, touch tone is \$1.45 per month)? You should compare prices from different manufacturers remembering that the mechanisms of the regular rotary phone, the trim-line and the princess phone at the C&P store belong to the company. The advantage to renting your equipment, or course, is that the phone company repairs it for you without charge. If you own your whole phone outright, you're responsible for repairs. On the other hand, the equipment should last at least ten years.

Then there is the intriguing prospect of hooking into one of AT&T's competitors for long distance service if you make a lot of long distance calls and would like to pay less. After all, the book comments, AT&T or "Ma" Bell as the largest corporation in the world won't tell you that there comes a time in a telephone user's life when it may pay to leave "Mom".

Four of Bell's competitors which offer residential long distance service are ITT (International Telephone and Telegraph), MCI (Microwave Communications, Inc.), Western Union, and Southern Pacific Sprint.

The way these companies can offer much lower prices is that they use computers and microwave or radio wave links and they concentrate on heavily used phone routes. Wave links are cheaper than the buried or strung cables of the Bell system. But

your first consideration in a move to a competitor would be whether or not they serve the areas you call the most.

The book stresses the importance of being informed. Be sure that you are paying for the phone service that you really want. The book helps you pick through the land mines of a pressured sales pitch and the heart rending phone company ads which after all are designed to make you spend more money. The book helps you analyze your service, to read your phone bill (the phone company gives a lot of helpful consumer information in the front of the phone book), and urges you to call the company to find out just what all the charges represent.

When this author called to find out the monthly rental fee for her phones, she discovered that the phone company had been overcharging her. The explanation was that when new rates went into effect last June the computer somehow turned an ordinary rotary dial phone into a touch tone model and charged the higher price. When this was ascertained, the phone company representative calculated the credit due.

The second Nader report in this volume provides the enterprising consumer with the basic tools to challenge phone company rate increase requests. It starts with a description of a Telephone Consumer's Bill of Rights, many points of which are covered in our own D.C. Bill of Rights. Then follows a very readable discussion of the monopoly characteristics of AT&T, the principles of telephone rate making, and many issues that arise in rate case

challenges. Some of these issues are similar to those of gas and electric rate cases, i.e. questions of what constitute operating expenses, the value of the rate base, whether or not to allow construction work in progress (CWIP), rate of return, etc. Some issues are peculiar to telephone service, for example, whether or not the licensing fee that C&P pays to AT&T (its parent company) for the privilege of using the lines, etc., are fair, long distance rates versus local rates, coin phones, directory assistance, and privacy. The book is invaluable for an understanding of these problems in lay terms.

Finally, there is a discussion of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) more than five-year effort to break up the monolithic AT&T. Some immediate results have been the competition in long distance service and in purchase of phone equipment discussed earlier. Further down the road, we can expect phone company response to these efforts in the form of changes in local rates (discussed in the last issues of the "Consumer Utility News") and battles to control emerging satellite technology for communications.

You can call the NCCB at 462-2520 to get a copy of the book; the cost is six dollars.

—CONSUMER UTILITY NEWS

CITY LOG

The physical city

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT: The State historical Preservation Officer and the Joint Committee on Landmarks continue hearings this month on the proposed downtown residential historic district, which runs between Mass. Ave. and G Street, 4th & 9th Streets NW. Hearings will be held Jan. 19 and 26 in the conference room of the NCPC, 1325 G NW, tenth floor. Info: 724-0206

UNION STATION: The President has signed legislation that would provide at least \$80 million in government funds to restore Union Station to a train depot, transfer control to the US Department of Transportation and complete the parking garage. The plan also would permit completion of roof repairs and permit DOT to sign long term leases for private companies to operate within the station. Possibilities for private development include shops, offices and hotels. The current railroad station would be torn down.

WILLARD HOTEL: It was reported last month that the cost of renovating the hotel has doubled since the project was first approved by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Commission in 1978. The developer, Oliver Carr, has revised the original plan by cutting out one-third of the hotel rooms, adding 210,000 square feet of office space and doubling the amount of retail space. The office and retail space would be in a building between the Willard and the Hotel Washington.

ALEXANDER SHEPHERD HOME: The Alexander Shepherd House at 1150 10th St. is up before the Joint Landmarks Committee for designation as a historic landmark. The home of DC's famous 19th century "boss" — used in his less glamorous years as a plumbing contractor, has been nominated by the Logan Circle Community Association. Copies of the nomination form are on file in the State Historic Preservation Office, third floor, 1133 North Capitol St. NE.

RHODES TAVERN: More than ten thousand area residents have signed a petition urging developer Oliver Carr to spare Rhodes Tavern from destruction. Joe Grano, president of the Citizens Committee to Save Historic Rhodes Tavern says, "We will make

Rhodes Tavern an issue in the 1982 mayoral campaign. After all, Rhodes Tavern has the honor of being Mayor Barry's first broken 1978 campaign promise. While Barry continues to call for a 'living downtown,' he signed the death warrant for downtown's oldest building and Washington's first town hall."

SIDEWALK CAFES: The Fine Arts Commission has urged the city to impose a moratorium on construction of enclosed sidewalk cafes. The city council is considering legislation legalizing the cafes during certain months.

SECTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: On December 4, the Zoning Commission gave notice of its intention to revise the zoning regulations to repeal the Sectional Development Plan process and related sections. Copies of the proposed rules are available at the commission.

MAYFLOWER CAFE: The Mayflower has asked the city for permission to build a permanent sidewalk cafe on DeSales Street. The cafe, which would be the biggest in the city, would require the narrowing of DeSales Street. It would seat 85 people. The Mayflower is applying for the space under a 1934 that permits the leasing of public land for temporary buildings. Mayflower lawyer Lou Robbins argues that the cafe could be taken down, albeit with some difficulty.

Economics

HIGH RENTS HURTING BOOM: A Chicago real estate firm, Howard Ecker & Co., reports that the rent for each employee in a new downtown office building is more than twice that in suburban office space. Says the firm: "The widening gap between those amounts threatens the economic viability of the development boom."

CITY FINDS MONEY FOR WELFARE: The city council has voted to provide \$2.5 million for working poor families. Under Reagan administration slashes, some 2500 of the 3800 working poor families in DC would be dropped from welfare and the rest would get smaller benefits. The plan, drafted by Mayor Barry, will offset the losses that might otherwise occur to these families.

OFFICE VACANCIES RISE: Office vacancies in DC are now at about 2 percent, the highest in years, and more than double the September figures. Even this September figure was considerably higher than anything the city had seen in the three previous years, when vacancy rates ranged from .1 to .4 percent. The cutbacks in federal government activities combined with what appears to be significant over-construction are the primary causes.

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION FORMED: A group of businesses and professions have formed the Lower Georgia Avenue Business and Professional Corporation. Its goal is to "develop and enhance the esthetic, commercial, economic, historical and architectural features" of the area. Says organization chair Clifton West Jr., "We have watched the lower Georgia Avenue corridor become a blighted area, but we feel we can help reverse that trend." (726-0842)

UPO SLASHED IN HALF: The United Planing Office, faced with sharp reductions in federal aid, has laid off about forty percent of its employees and plans to cut back services to the poor by about fifty percent. That means about 80,000 fewer people will be receiving services from UPO than was the case before the Reagan cutbacks.

BONDS TO CLOSE: Bond Clothes, a fifty year old downtown feature, will close its F street store this month. The company would like another store in DC but can't find a location at a decent price.

Utilities

C & P RATE INCREASE: To intervene in the rate increase case write Public Service Commission, 451 Indiana Ave. NW, DC 20001 (727-3050)

PEPCO GETS RATE INCREASE: The public Service Commission has given Pepco a \$23 million rate increase. But the PSC cut \$14 million from Pepco's request and put a freeze on rates for low-use customers. The commission also took Pepco to task for not converting its Chalk Point Four plant to coal. The oil-burning plant will go into operation next year. One commission member, Wesley Long, said in a dissent that Pepco should be ordered to convert the plant to coal claiming that the PSC "can save DC electricity customers anywhere from \$32 million to \$655 million over the next 25 years by beginning the conversion process immediately."

The law

INSURANCE FRAUD: Jerry Moore has introduced legislation that would make insurance fraud a specific criminal offense (Bill 4-371) and require insurance companies to forward to the police information on suspicious insurance activities.

POLICE REVIEW BOARD: For the first time since 1973, DC has a police review board. The board will have more powers than the previous one, including subpoena authority. The board will have a \$150,000 annual budget and will be chaired by Goler Butcher, a Howard law professor. Three members are appointed by the mayor, two by the council and one each by the police chief and the police officers' union. The board, called the Civilian Complaint Review Board, will hear evidence on alleged police misconduct and recommend action to the chief. If the chief rejects the recommendation or reduces a penalty, the mayor can overrule him.

VICTIM COMPENSATION: The council judiciary committee last month reported out a bill that would provide for compensation to innocent victims of violent crime. Losses that would be compensated are limited to those involving physical or emotional injury and would not include property losses. Compensation would be limited to \$25,000 per claim.

CCNV GRANTED PERMIT: A federal judge has ruled that the Community for Creative Non-Violence was constitutionally protected in its efforts to stage a tent sleep-in at Lafayette Park as part of its protest against Reagan economic policies. The National Park Service had refused the group permission to erect tents in the park on the grounds that they were not necessary for the group to express its opinion. Judge Charles Richey ruled that the protestors could occupy the tents provided they did not disturb the peace or damage the park.

POLICE CHANGE UNIONS: After an intense election last month, police officers voted 1555 to 1084 to make the Fraternal Order of Police the bargaining agent for the city's police, ousting the International Brotherhood of Police Officers which had been the representative since 1974.

BORK NOMINATED: President Reagan nominated Robert H. Bork to the US Court of Appeals for the district. He would succeed Carl McGowan. Bork was Nixon's solicitor general who fired Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox in the famed 1973 "Saturday Night Massacre."

ROBBERIES UP: Armed robberies jumped 25 percent in DC last year and were up almost double the number that occurred in 1979. Homicides were up sixteen percent, which the police chief relates to the city's heavy drug traffic.

Politics

INITIATIVE GATHERERS: The board of elections is planning to tighten its rules on gathering petitions in the wake of learning that many of those circulating petitions for the tuition tax credit were not DC residents. The new rule states: "The failure of the circulator of an initiative or referendum petition or individual petitions sheets to be a registered qualified elector will invalidate the signature of an otherwise registered qualified elector."

STEIN CLUB ELECTS: Tom Chorlton has been reelected president of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club.

THE LONGEST ELECTION: After seven weeks of counting, the Board of Elections finally certified last month most of the ANC races. Meanwhile, the elections board was putting together a citizens panel to help it straighten out its notorious mishandling of elections.

Transportation

STUDENT FARE RISE: Student Metro fares are now twenty cents. The fare rise is a result of DC legislation setting the student fare at one-third the regular rate rounded down to the nearest nickel.

FREE FEDERAL PARKING: Despite a court ruling upholding Jimmy Carter's regulation that federal employees pay for their parking spaces, the Reagan administration, deviating from its usual anti-socialist line, has decided to let the free parking continue. Said the president, "To resume those fees would impose yet another financial burden upon thousands of hard-pressed federal employees who have had only 4.8 percent increases in their pay."

RED LINE RIDERSHIP: Red Line ridership is up 17,000 passengers a week following the opening of three new stations on Conn. Ave. The rise is greater than Metro had anticipated, especially since bus service cutbacks are not yet in effect. It's not known, however, how many of the riders previously entered Metro at another station. Meanwhile, Dupont Circle boardings have fallen off while Farragut North boardings have increased.

BIKE NOTES: The Department of Transportation has completed a detailed bike route map but can't find the money to print it. DOT is also looking for money to print a collection of bike tours. Anyone with ideas on how to fund either of these projects should call DC bike coordinator Eileen Kadesh, 727-5906. The bike office has, however, completed a safety film called "Bicycling is Serious Business." New bike racks and lockers are being installed at DC government buildings. Bob Bers has resigned as executive director of the Washington Area Bicyclists Association.

AIRPORT TAXI RIPOFF: Washington Post reporters Pete Earley and Jack Eisen reported that their investigation of taxi fares from DC to National Airport found overcharges ranging from \$1.10 to \$3.50 for what should have been a \$7.40 ride. On every one of ten trips the reporters took, they were overcharged.

MICHIGAN AVENUE BRIDGE REOPENED: The Michigan Avenue Bridge, at 10th Street NE, has been reopened after a \$7 million rehabilitation. The bridge now includes two bike lanes and a six foot wide sidewalk. The Mayor has invited citizens to suggest a name for the bridge and has appointed a citizens panel to advise him on the matter.

METRO FUNDS CLEARED: Metro's FY 1982 federal funding has been cleared and the figure is \$284 million for construction as opposed to the \$315 million the system had sought. The Metro staff has suggested several cutbacks in view of the reduced funding -- including delaying the tunneling for the U Street tunnel of the Green & Yellow Lines and cutting out suburban real estate to be purchased for Metro's extension.

City finances

DC PAYS BILLS BETTER: In fiscal 1980 the city paid \$141,000 in late charges to creditors. This past year it earned \$385,000 in discounts for prompt payments. According to Mayor Barry, the time for processing an average bill has been cut from 71 days to 28 days.

GWU BONDS: The city has floated its first bond issue since home rule to be used by George Washington University for its building program. The conduit bonds, \$30 million worth, are among the first variable rate offerings. The interest charges will be equal to sixty-five percent of the prime rate. The bonds are backed by GWU assets and not the city's faith and credit.

Salvador benefit

There will be a benefit performance of 'El Salvador: Another Vietnam?' on January 31 at the Inner Circle, 21st & Pa. Ave. NW. Continuous performances from one p.m. on. I. F. Stone will speak at the 8 pm showing. \$5 at the door to benefit the DC Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

Health

PEER REVIEW GROUP GETS REPRIEVE: the federal Department of Health and Human Services has told the National Capital Medical Foundation that it may remain in business through June, during which time it will have to convince the feds it is helping both the cost and quality of local health care. The peer review group is federally funded and oversees the expenditure of Medicare and Medicaid funds. The foundation can deny funds to health institutions if it finds they have kept patients hospitalized too long or has given them improper treatment. The foundation is one of 187 similar organizations around the country which the Reagan administration would like to abolish. HHS ranked the local group 116th out of the 187, and complained about the foundation spending \$223,000 to one DC law firm and using that firm to appeal HHS's previous ruling that would have cut off funding.

Education

PROGRESS PLAN CHECKLISTS: The Washington Teachers Union has filed for arbitration on the issue of the new student progress

forms issued recently by the school system. The complex and jargon filled forms were immediately attacked by the union and by some parents who found them confusing. Says the union, "Teachers now are filled with anxiety and are disdainful at being pressured into completely unnecessary paperwork. Parents evidently are not pleased with the new mode of communications. **** And certainly students are getting the losing end of this stick." WTU says that under their contract teachers do not have to fill out the forms.

CONTRACT TALKS STALLED: The Teachers Union and the school system seem headed for another stand-off as months of negotiations over a new contract have failed to bring agreement. The union has called for a twenty percent salary increase package, full payment of health and life insurance and full payment of optical, dental, and prescription drug and legal services. Also full payment for courses required by the board for recertification. The system, meanwhile, is arguing for a longer workday and a longer work year for teachers, something the teachers adamantly oppose.

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THE DC BOOKSHELF



CITIFAX: Facts & figures about DC

CITIFAX: In invaluable collection of facts and figures about DC that you'll find nowhere else. Plus a listing of citywide and ward groups. Topics covered in maps and charts include poverty, industrial land use, per capita income, gross income by wards, office rental rates, school test scores 1975-1980, school enrollment, teachers salaries, comparison of school budget with suburban jurisdictions, private school enrollment by wards, tax revenue by source 1970-1980, tax revenues lost due to the federal presence, changes in the recreation budget, wards and neighborhood commissions, DC neighborhoods, city council committees, comparison of business taxes with other cities, land use in DC by type, recreation and leisure activity sites by ward, average house assessments by neighborhoods, comparison of housing sales prices with other metro areas, results of initiatives and referenda, presidential votes, ward results 1980, 1980 election results, population figures, Metro ridership by month, change in ridership to downtown, prior mode of Metro riders, causes of death. All this for only \$2.00

YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON: A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95.

THIRTY-TWO PICTURE POST CARDS OF OLD WASHINGTON, DC. Ready to mail. Rare photos reproduced as post cards in sepia. A different way to stay in touch. \$2.75.

HEALING RESOURCES: comprehensive guide to alternative therapy, prayer, acupuncture and holistic health practices in the metropolitan area. Originally \$5.95. Reduced to \$3.

CAPTIVE CAPITAL: Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," Bryce Nelson of the LA Times. "An excellent gift," Bill Raspberry in the Washington Post. "Must Reading," Afro-American. "A joy to read," Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune.

NOTICE: The Gazette has secured the rights to "Captive Capital" and can now offer it to its readers 40% off the list price of \$10. For Gazette readers: \$6!

BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS. The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3.

PUBLIC BANKING: A MODEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. A monograph on how to alter the city's banking system by William Batko of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. \$1.

OLD WASHINGTON, DC, IN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS: 1846-1932. This is a truly fine collection of over 200 prints that provide an enduring record of this city. \$7.95.

SECRET CITY: Constance Green's history of black Washington. A highly readable trip through the city's black past. \$5.95

ANSWERS: Susan Meenan's widely praised guide to community resources in DC. How to get help, how to deal with various problems etc. Truly useful. Send \$4.95. **SOLD OUT**

JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON: Done in Wieb's wry and pointed style, this map was drawn for the Bicentennial and is now available for 40% off at \$1.50.

WASHINGTON: Constance Green's Pulitzer Prize-winning comprehensive history of Washington is now available in paperback for only \$7.50. The basic book of DC history.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WASHINGTON STUDIES AND DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR LOCAL COLLECTIONS: This is a revised and enlarged edition of an outstanding bibliography of Washington materials that has been out of print for several years. It has been compiled and annotated by Perry G. Fisher of the Columbia Historical Society and Linda J. Lear of George Washington University. There are nearly 350 entries in the new edition, as well as updated descriptions of the major local collections of Washingtoniana. \$6.

ALLEY LIFE IN WASHINGTON: Family, Community, Religion and Folklife in the City, 1850-1970. By James Borchert. Borchert challenges conventional wisdom that the impact of the city led to the breakdown of migrants' social institutions. Borchert shows how Washington's alley dwellers adapted patterns that permitted continuity and survival in an often harsh environment. The male-headed nuclear family composed the fundamental unit in this urban subculture, but extended families, kinship networks, alley communities, and folk and religious traditions continued to provide coherence and to help alley dwellers cope with the rigors of everyday life. Forgoing outside assistance, these self-reliant people adjusted to their limited incomes and tiny quarters by using folk cures, remedies, and food sources, as well as by devising ingenious furniture. These crowded but isolated and homogeneous populations were able to shape close-knit communities, with social hierarchies which administered aid and comfort to the needy, but which also punished transgressors. This book is being sold by the Gazette at 20% off list price. \$14.80.

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PATCO RESOLUTION: Arrington Dixon has introduced a resolution calling on the federal government to resume negotiations with the air traffic controllers.

SPACE INVADERS TAX: Councilmember Jerry Moore has introduced legislation to provide a tax on the money spent on coin operated amusement devices. (Bill 4-359)

TWENTY-FIVE GRAND FOR A SLOGAN: The city plans to award a twenty-five thousand dollar contract to an advertising agency to produce a slogan for the city, as well as a theme, a logo and a tourism marketing strategy. Asked by the Post if \$25,000 wasn't too much for the financial pinched city to spend, Mayor Barry's press secretary said, "Other cities have slogans. He feels we should have one, too."

PROTESTORS GET DAMAGES: A federal court jury has awarded \$712,000 to the Washington Peace Center and seven local activists because of damages suffered at the hands of the FBI and police during the late sixties and early seventies. The seven were the late Julius Hobson, Rev. David Eaton, Sammie Abbott, Abe Bloom, Arthur

Waskow, Richard Pollock and Reginald Booker. The damage awards were against former police chief Jerry Wilson and a number of individual FBI agents and local police officers. They were charged with violating the constitutional rights of the plaintiffs through political dirty tricks and surveillance. The jury, however, refused damages to another group, Washington Area Women Strike for Peace.

In the face of the Reagan Administration's severest planned cuts in children's programs, the Children's Defense Fund will host a national conference to help groups around the country fight back. The National Strategy Conference on the Federal Budget: Children and Families will take place February 24, 25 and 26, 1982, at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C.

The conference will include workshops on how to prevent destructive cuts in Head Start, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid, child care, and other programs that meet the survival needs of millions of America's children and families; how to raise money from corporations and foundations; and how to lobby and use the media.

For registration information, call (202) 332-3456.



MY LAUNDRY CAREER

Eric Green

It was, as always, a last minute decision to go do my mile-high stack of wash. Unfortunately, I had arrived at the laundromat on Pennsylvania Avenue with several nickles and a fat \$20 bill and the machines only worked with quarters and dimes.

The dollar changer hardly fit the bill, and my compatriots, two sturdy washerwomen working on their third spins, nearly blanched when I asked if they might spare some coins.

Muttering something off-color, I flung my soiled lot into a vacant tub and stormed off, hauling under my arm a soap box of CHEER. So it was reduced to this: to press for change, even if I had to turn into a veritable steam-roller.

It was lunchtime at the nearby Roy Rogers and a line of customers had looped a slow curve around itself. But that was their problem.

"Squze me. Ouch. Sorry. I beg your pardon? Ignoring a hail of insults, I swooped in on the head cashier.

"How-day Pardner," I greeted Wanda, the Roy's Ranchhand, as I employed the old soft-sell. "I need some change, Pardner. You know, for an emergency phone call."

Wanda seemed edgy. Then she turned downright uptight. "Sir, you'll have to get in line. Like everybody else."

Obviously, in this case, she was horribly confused. "Oh, no, no, Pardner, I'm not here to eat."

"Sure, Pardner," snarled a Buckaroo from back in the barbecue pit. "Neither are we."

Perhaps further explanation was in order. As evidence, I held up an expired plasma donor card that I had found for such emergencies. "You see, it's life and death." I raised it higher. "Get the bloody picture?"

Several orders of Roy's chicken platters exchanged hands as my money and I burned to a crisp. At intervals, just a helpful reminder, I flapped my \$20 at Wanda. Now she was ignoring me, deliberately.

This was some choice: I could hold my ground and risk having some bum steal my clothes; I could say the hell with it and continue to wear things

starting to decompose; or I could go for broke somewhere else.

I immediately regretted my decision as I advanced through the Liquor Store. Because there, overhead, a poster was screaming: WARNING—SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS PROTECT THESE PREMISES. An equally omnipresent sign by the cash register said: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES DO WE GIVE CHANGE.

At first, I blinked, I admit it. But not twice. This time I had devised a better strategy.

"Pardon me, Tex," I said, addressing a cowboy hat that was bobbing in and out of view from atop a step ladder. "Uh, I was wondering if you might stock gum. The juicyfruit kind, I mean." I wasn't exactly sure what I meant.

A leathery face peered down. "You some kind of nutcake?"

"Yes, that's it. I'm looking for sugarless. More or less."

"Sorry, Pardner, that's not my problem. Try the head honcho in front."

When I got there, I thought I was seeing double. For behind the counter, glaring into space, was the winner of the Miss Bella Abzug Lookalike Pageant. Only Bella #2 came with a hardhat.

"Good afternoon," I began, trying to make my nickles jiggle.

Bella's right eye traced the path of my hands; her other cross-examined the soapbox of CHEER.

"I'd like to buy some gum," I announced, cracking the silence. Bella herself seemed to be chewing it over.

I detected movement to the left of the counter. Yes, it was alive, a mongrel twice the size of a Trailways Bus. The thing was loosely chained to Bella's wrist.

"Hi there, Tiny," I laughed, hoping to curry favor with both of them. "Is it a boy?"

As quick as a cat, Bella shifted into third gear. "You want the gum or not?"

"Oh yes, the gum. How much is it?"

From the side, someone began to salivate. I could have sworn it came from Bella.

Bella seemed unusually friendly today. "Can't you read?"

I looked around for a sales-sign. The salivating grew heavier.

"What? Forty-five cents? For a crummy five sticks?"

Someone seemed to be trying to restrain himself. "I don't have the right amount, exactly," I whispered, unfurling my twenty. "You'll break this, I'm sure." Now the building was beginning to shake.

"Here, look, see, uh, I even have a few coins," I added, tossing them on the twenty. One of the nickles slipped, careening around the counter before landing nearly perpendicular against Bella's thumb. It was then that I felt a line of customers taking in the scene.

"If you wouldn't mind, I'll take the last dollar in quarters and dimes..." "ROAR... SNARL... GRRRRRRR..." "...On the other hand, let's forget about the gum. I think two tens would work just as well." My little compromise soon restored free breathing, for all of us. I thought Bella would refuse to hand the bills over, but she handed them over.

I casually stuck the money in a breastpocket and made my leave. By the door, I offered a diplomatic bow. "And I thank you so much for your help," I caught myself saying. "For the money, I mean."

Suddenly, there were fingers being pointed—at me. "Hey, Mister, yeah you, buddy...you forgot your box of soap."

I hurried off. No sir, for this I wasn't about to get my back up.

I caught the last drift of laughter as I went outside. Since then, I take my laundry to the cleaners up the street. If they're closed, I do the wash in the sink.

15 YEARS AGO

in the pages of the Gazette

Local Poverty Programs Wait for Axe to Fall

It was a grim holiday season for those involved in the local anti-poverty program.

Near NE and Near SE community workers went about their tasks still not knowing when and how scheduled heavy fund cuts would hit their activities.

During the past month, local community leaders have joined in numerous protests against the cuts. In Near SE, poverty workers rounded up 1500 letters to the White House opposing the slashes. A number of persons connected with the Capitol East poverty programs have been working actively with the Underground, a militant group campaigning strongly for an unreduced anti-poverty effort.

News of the cutbacks has brought gloom to local poverty workers. Individual reactions have ranged from anger to resignation.

In the confusing days following the announcement of the pending reduction, tempers flared at public meetings and behind closed doors. One of the most dramatic sessions occurred at a meeting at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, called by Friendship House to protest the cuts.

Several hundred persons were present, including such civil rights leaders as Julius Hobson of ACT and Channing Phillips of the Coalition of Conscience. The walls of the basement meeting room were plastered with signs. One read:

GOD SAVE THE POOR;
CONGRESS WON'T

Bob Adams, director of Friendship House, told the meeting he felt that the poverty program was "on the skids." During his generally pessimistic discussion, Adams—who chaired the session—stated that he has told his staff workers to look for other jobs.

Adams was sharply rebuked by the Rev. Phillip Newell for his resigned attitude towards the problem. Newell urged that the meeting participants demand that UPO continue its programs at their current levels. And if that didn't work, he went on, then local citizens should block all the streets to the Capitol for five days and call on people from other states to join in the protest.

As person after person demanded recognition, the meeting began to get out of hand, leading one poverty worker, Pete Green, to comment, "You may want to set around and jive, but I'm not going to."

Another person at the meeting noted that if the poverty funds were restored

across the nation by taking money out of the space program, it would delay landing a man on the moon by 44 1/2 working days.

Julius Hobson made a plea for his plan for massive bankruptcy proceedings by the poor.

And Deana Wheeler called for a protest march the following day.

Adams, still chairing the meeting, attempted to maintain order but the crowd became increasingly restive. Some of those present wanted to put forth their own idea of the solution to the problem, others wanted to vote and still others wanted to break the meeting into workshops for further discussions.

Pete Green rose again and told the crowd:

"We need a-c-t-i-o-n! We don't need jiving."

About this time, poverty worker Pharnel Longus leaped to the front of the room and tried to take control of the meeting from Adams. But he had not said more than a few words when a man nearby stood up and angrily demanded, "What makes you think you're a leader?"

At this moment, the tall form of Channing Phillips stepped forward and restored a semblance of order to the meeting.

Later, an announcement was made that all the militants in the crowd were invited to leave the meeting for a rump session at the home of Sherwood Ross, in Near SE.

It was at this meeting, in Ross's living room, that the Underground was formed—the group that has been most vocal in its opposition to the poverty fund cuts.

The events of that evening indicate the intensity of feeling that has developed over this issue. While some of those involved have given up on the poverty program, others feel that, if protests are strong enough, Congress will grant additional money. The question goes beyond the matter of how UPO handles its budgetary problem to whether Congress can be made to change its mind about the poverty program.



Capitol East will probably lose its two police precinct stations—the 5th and the 9th—if the planned citywide consolidation of police activities into six districts is carried out. The consolidation was proposed in a study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and is currently being reviewed by Metropolitan police officials.

The VISTA program in Capitol East is running into trouble. Neither the domestic peace corps volunteers working here nor the anti-poverty professionals with whom they operate seem very happy with the way things have developed.

Ironically, despite the general dissatisfaction, the VISTA program is not one of those affected by poverty fund cutbacks.

The VISTAs blame red tape, bureaucracy and too many restrictions at Friendship House, the agency supervising the program here.

Some of the professionals, however, say that the VISTAs were inadequately trained and not prepared for the job they were expected to do in Capitol East. "They think they're a combination of Saul Alinsky and Jesus Christ," said one professional.

The VISTAs have been helping in day care programs, community organization and employment assistance.

They appear uncertain as to the role they are meant to fill here and complain that sometimes they are treated like pro-

fessionals and sometimes like flunkies. Some feel that Friendship House has not given them enough freedom of action.

But one professional poverty worker who has had VISTAs helping him says that when he gave them free rein, they didn't show up for work. "They want to save the world," he said, "but they don't want to pound the pavement."

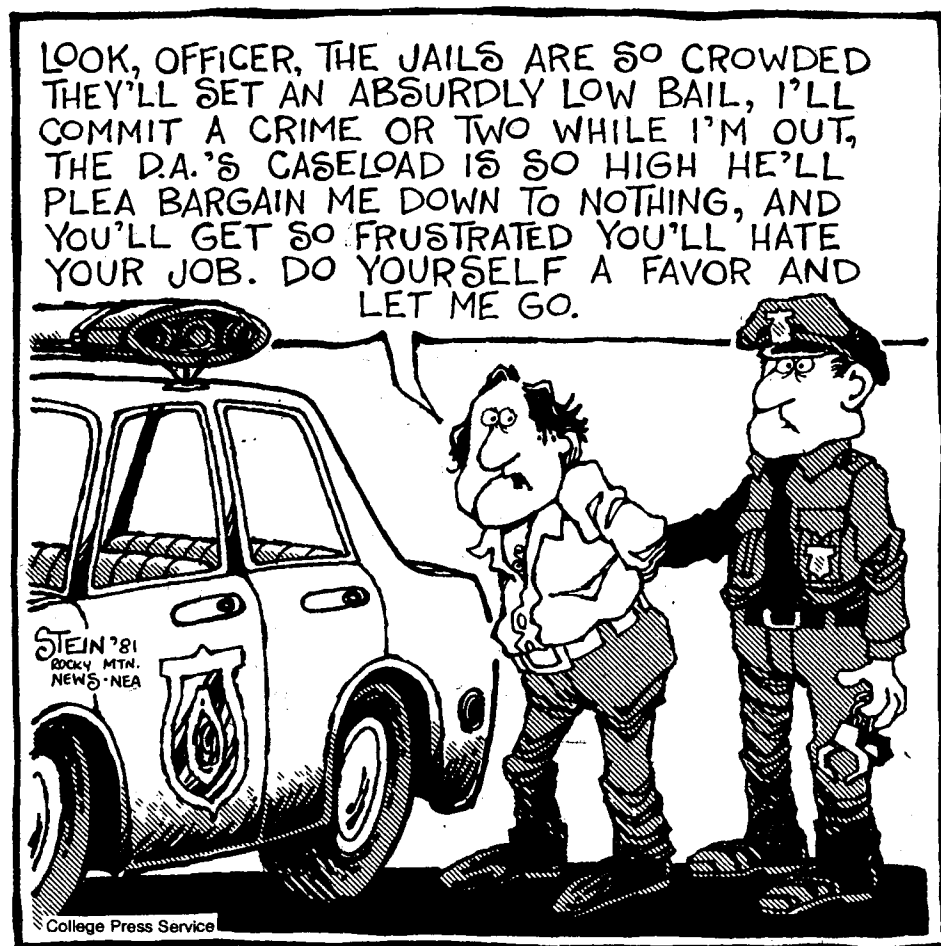
Several of the VISTA volunteers told the Gazette that they did not think the program as presently constituted was worth refunding. "I'd just forget it," said one.

Jane Hardin, at Community Laundries, reports that the legal assistance program there is working out extremely well. Some 60 law students are helping to man a legal assistance desk at the community center connected with the laundry.

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson is reported to have made several tours of the Capitol East area recently. She has taken a special interest in public landscape projects in this region.

JANUARY

1967



THE REGION

POST GOES CABLE

The Washington Post has announced that starting in 1983 it will begin providing a mixture of local news, information and advertising on leased cable channels. The move is a portent of things to come in the daily newspaper business which is facing an ever-growing cost squeeze. Industry analyst John Morton suggests that "We're looking at a time in the future when some of the newspaper is not going to be delivered in newsprint." Classifieds and stock tables would probably be the first to go. The Post is beginning discussions with cable systems although the format of the programming has not yet been designed. Says Alice Rogoff, assistant to publisher Donald Graham, "We're looking for a distribution systems because we want to develop the product." Remember these plans when you read Post editorials on DC cable.

CRAWFORD TO HEAD COG

HR Crawford, DC city councilmember, has been elected president of the

Council of Governments. COG's new vice presidents are Deborah March of the Prince George's county council and Marie Travesky, a member of the Fairfax county board of supervisors.

BIKES ON METRO STAY

Metro has decided that the six month bike-on-rail experiment is a success and is planning to make it a permanent feature. More than six hundred cyclists have obtained permits which allow them to take their bikes with them when they ride Metro on weekends and some holidays. Cyclists who would like to join the program may register for a training session and test by calling 637-1116. It takes about thirty minutes for the entire procedure. Permits cost \$10 each and are valid for two years. To rent a bike locker now available at many Metro stops call 637-1327.

DEVELOPMENT SHIFTS

A report by the Braedon Companies suggests some significant shifts in office development activity in the coming

year. In Maryland, it is expected that overall suburban development will drop to less than half the 1981 total with a shift in major activity from Rockville-Gaithersburg to North Prince Georges County. Development in Wheaton, Silver Spring and Bethesda-Chevy Chase will be way down.

In Virginia, development activity will also drop by about fifty percent with the emphasis shifting away from Vienna-McLean to Rosslyn-Pentagon-Crystal City and Fairfax County. In DC, there will be a forty-five percent increase in amount of office space being developed with the emphasis remaining in the area east of 15th Street above the central business district. The Braedon Companies' report describes the downtown market as soft for 1982 and 1983: "Traditional absorption in Washington would indicate that the oversupply may be as much as 2 million square feet."

LOW FLOW ON POTOMAC

The annual flow of the Potomac River was the lowest in twelve years. The Potomac's flow was generally below normal for eight of the twelve months.

